



**Photo Challenge** 

The best of **Metro's Global Photo Challenge** 

pgs 12, 13



"For the first time in the history of Canada, the prime minister of Canada is running away from the Parliament."

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion



"What he's doing right now is trying to lock the door of Parliament so that the elected people cannot speak."

New Democrat Leader Jack Layton



"The Conservative leader has managed to do something quite extraordinary, which is to attract the criticism of all the leaders in

**Quebec."** Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe

# House on hiatus

Harper asks rivals for input on economy as GG prorogues Parliament

### **NATION DIVIDED**

**Prime Minister Stephen** Harper appealed to his political rivals for economic advice to defuse their outrage over the Conservative leader's unprecedented shutdown of Parliament to avoid certain defeat.

After an 80-minute meeting yesterday at Rideau Hall, Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean granted Harper's request to prorogue Parliament, sparing him from a confidence vote on Monday — and defeat for his Conservatives.

The Conservative leader acknowledged the economic demands of his political critics and promised the "first order of business" when Parliament resumes on Jan. 26 would be a budget the following day.

But Harper's invitation to the opposition parties to work together on the economic file did not appease the three party leaders who say they remain ready to replace his government with a Liberal-led coalition at the earliest opportunity.

The NDP and Bloc vowed to defeat the Conservatives, even if it means waiting a few more weeks.

"I cannot have confidence in the prime minister who would throw the locks on the door of this place know-



Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean approved his recommendation to prorogue Parliament at Rideau Hall in Ottawa yesterday. Harper said he will deliver a budget the day after Parliament resumes, which will be on Jan. 26.

ing that he's about to lose a vote in the House of Commons. That's denying about as fundamental a right as one has in a democracy," NDP Leader Jack Layton said on Parliament Hill.

But cracks began to appear in the resolve of the Liberal party.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion condemned Harper's tactical move to avoid defeat while at the same time, he appeared willing to compromise if Harper acts on their budget demands.

"This is about replacing Stephen Harper unless he made a monumental change ... the challenge is monumental for him," Dion said. "Nothing in what Mr. Harper said today change our mind."

Harper adopted a more

conciliatory tone than in the week since the crisis erupted over his government's economic statement.

Outside Rideau Hall, Harper called on the opposition to "engage with the government," citing Canadians' "frustration" at all political parties for their failure to work together on the economic crisis.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Do you think the Gov. Gen. should have allowed the prime minister to prorogue Parliament?

### **Kathy Vanderbilt**

age 39, Calgary

A: I think it's good (she) stepped in and suspended Parliament because the coalition wasn't the elected party.

#### **Dakshin Gunawardana** age 21, Vancouver

A: I think so. We have already had the election. The opposition shouldn't just go in and take it by force.

### **Jason Contant**

age 32, Toronto

A: I think so. It is a precedent setting thing ... because they would have brought a confidence motion ... that would bring down the government.

### **Randall Smolinski**

age 38, Ottawa

A: Absolutely, Canadians voted in September. We made a decision then and we should stick with that and not change anything.

#### **Donna Maxwell**

age 52, Dartmouth, N.S.

A: I'm disappointed. What else can you say? I'm disappointed. I don't like the dictatorial manner that Harper uses.

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Coalition to keep up fight

against Conservatives, pg 8

West still mostly support-

Harper not always warm

Videos of Harper's address

and the week's biggest los-

ers at metronews.ca/canada

to Michaëlle Jean, pg 14

ive of Harper, pg 10

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CES GUARAN

Calgary's United Way campaign hit pay dirt Thursday as TransCanada Corporation kicked in nearly \$2 million. With help from more than 1,500 employees and contractors, TransCanada increased their 2007 donation by \$100,000 to a record \$1,914,712.. METRO CALGARY

# Local



### **Bus got stuffed**

More than \$143,000 in cash and food donations were driven into Calgary Transit buses during the annual Stuff-A-Bus event last Saturday at all of the city's 20 Co-Op stores. The donations went to the Calgary Interfaith Foodbank. METRO CALGARY

### Friend of accused Stauffer killer reacts with shock

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

Friends of a church-going town employee are shocked that he's been accused of murdering 14vear-old Emily Stauffer.

Ross Edward Kleman, 48, was charged with first-degree murder yesterday in the death of the pastor's daughter, who was murdered in broad daylight as

she walked wooded path in the small community of Edson Sept.

"Investigators ob- Ross Edward tained Kleman

grounds to believe Mr. Kleman is the person responsible for the death of Emily Stauffer, and consequently, an arrest was made, and charges were sworn," said RCMP K division Cpl. Wayne Oakes.

Friend of the accused, Janet McDonald, says Kleman could never be guilty of such a horrific crime and that he may have been under police pressure.

"He told us by e-mail that he was being bullied into saying he did it," she said.

"He was so tired of them telling him that he did it, too — he just wanted them to leave him alone."

Over 40 officers have been working on the case in the 69 days since Stauffer's death, a crime that gripped the small community in fear.

"He didn't do it, but they said he did, and were going to make him admit to it. Yes, they got the wrong guy," McDonald said.

Kleman works for the town of Edson as an equipment operator.

Under "interests" on his Facebook profile, he included: Church, and helping people when possible.

Under his "favourite quotes" he lists: Walk by faith and not by sight. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

He also says, "Some call me lazy and some call me crazy. You tell me what you think and if you can't decide, ask my wife Dea-

"We know him and his family. He is a loving, caring man. He didn't do this," McDonald said.

Kleman will appear in an Edson court Dec. 16.

### City plans charges for surrounding areas

NEIL MACKINNON neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

Communities surrounding Calgary are set to ante up their fair share of the sewer, water and transit services provided by the city.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier said a cost calculation formula should come forward in the second quarter of 2009 and while the city is more than willing to work with its neighbours, "we're not into cross-subsidization ... We can't afford it any

"We're looking at full-cost recovery and recognition of

### "We're not into cross-subsidization ... We can't afford it any longer."

Mayor Bronconnier

the value of the services and products being provided by the city of Calgary or Calgary taxpayers," he said.

Calgary Regional Partnership executive director Rick Butler said the organization agrees with full-cost recovery and is in the process of adopting systems to facilitate the process "in a fair, equitable and planned man-



The Calgary Police are encouraging parents to get their kids photographed and fingerprinted in the rare case they become lost.

### Get pics and prints done to ID kids

KRISTA SYLVESTER

krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Getting your photo and fingerprints taken by the police isn't usually a good thing, but this Christmas season many kids will be doing just that.

police The Calgary service is encouraging parents to bring their children to have their photos and fingerprints taken in case they get lost as part of the Child Identification Program.

"It's actually a fun process for them and ... in the rare instance they get lost, we will have a current photo and print."

Jim Forde

"It's actually a fun process for them and the important thing is in the rare instance they get lost, we will have a current photo and print to identify them, but hopefully we won't ever need to use it," volunteer manager for the station Jim Forde said.

The program is actually run year-round by volunteers at the station, but the service is reminding parents at this busy time of the holiday shopping season how important it is.

Parents are invited to bring kids to the Braeside C.O.P.S station on 11430 Braeside Dr. SW Saturday between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Commercial and residential building applications down

**PERMITS** Applications for building permits in Calgary are down across the board.

Year-to-date statistics up to November released yesterday by the city indicated that residential permits were down by 40 per cent to \$1.4 billion and nonresidential permits dipped by 10 per cent to \$2.5 billion.

The biggest hit was in the new commercial sector, which experienced a 59 per cent decline while institutional values were four times higher and industrial application rose by 100 per cent.

**METRO CALGARY** 



What's online today.

Video: Stephen Harper addresses the media after meeting with the Governor General at metronews.ca/ canada

Video: Plenty of losers after a wild week in Ottawa at metronews.ca/ canada









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#### Woman treated for smoke inhalation after apartment blaze

Fire crews responded to an apartment fire in the 100 block of 20 Ave NE yesterday morning and doused the fire that originated in the bedroom. One woman was treated in hospital for smoke inhalation. The cause hasn't been determined yet. METRO CALGARY

### Calgarian chosen for Italian youth summit

his lab coat for a policy maker's pen.

At least for now.

Rizzuti, 20, will be Calgary's representative at the inaugu-

ral Interna- Franco tional Con- Rizzuti ference for

Italian Youth in Rome from Dec. 7 to 13, which will welcome 300 delegates from 19 countries to discuss issues surrounding the inclusion of

Franco Rizzuti has traded in those with Italian heritage in the country's political landscape.

"What we'd really like to see is the Italian government pass our working document into legislation," said the third-year University of Calgary biological sciences student. "We want to make the process of getting citizenship and working documents a lot easier."

Calgary-born and raised, Rizzuti said it was an honour to be chosen to attend the conference.

**NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY** 



Farah Atiq, 16, serves Marlene Abbott, whose son was one of the first who started the J.E. Harris House annual luncheon at James Fowler High School. Approximately 80 Harris House residents attended and the school's culinary-arts program provided the food.

### Carrying on tradition

KRISTA SYLVESTER krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Some traditions are worth carrying on, and James Fowler High School has carried this feast of a tradition on for a quarter century.

Yesterday the high school celebrated 25 years of hosting and feeding the residents of the neighbouring J.E Harris House seniors home during a holiday luncheon of turkey, gravy and all the fixings.

"I've been here since the first meal they served and I haven't missed one yet,' Harris House resident Ann

"It's a fun, fastpaced, energetic flow. It's just a lot of fun to serve the food out to them, plus we get a free dinner ourselves after."

Student Leo Fleck

Maund said. "The hospitality, the food, I enjoy all of it."

Maund said she feels like the students who cook and serve the food are special to her.

"I feel like they have sort of become a little part of me," she said.

But the culinary students serving the food are as grateful as the seniors, Fowler principal Keith Johnson said.

"I think the students enjoy cooking for and giving back to the community and they get really excited about it, too," he added.

Grade 11 culinary student Leo Fleck said he and the other students enjoy serving up the cooking to so many grateful people.

"And it's a fun, fast-paced, energetic flow. It's just a lot of fun to serve the food out to them, plus we get a free dinner ourselves after,' Fleck said.

### Car tax part of 'scenario' for revenue



**REPORT** A car tax for Calgary drivers may only emerge if the province fails to vacate their portion of the property tax, the city's intergovernmental affairs committee heard Thursday.

A report detailing possible areas of further taxation for Calgary residents includes a \$30 personal-vehicle levy and the installation of a landtransfer tax which could bring \$108 million into city coffers, administration said, adding work still needs to be done to determine whether any of the suggestions would be a "proper fit for Calgary."

Mayor Dave Bronconnier cautioned that the details in the report were "only scenarios, not our preference," and said similar types of "environmental surveys" were in the lead up to Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding announcements by the province where the argument was laid out that "if you don't want to pay, we have these options.

Bronconnier said the city would continue to push the province to vacate its part of the city's property taxes, which he pegs at nearly 50 per

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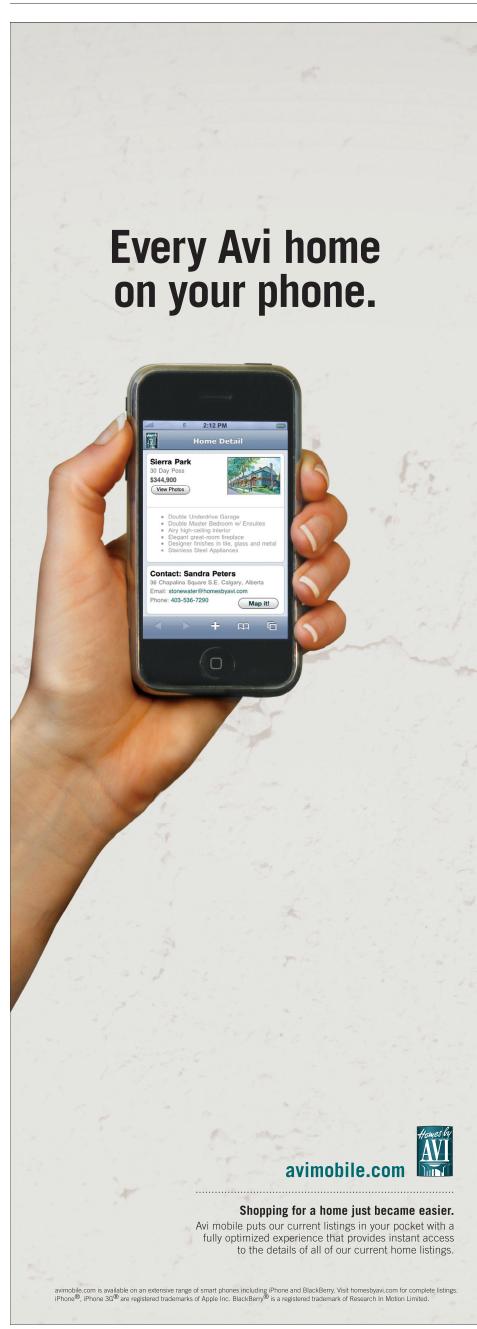
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The city's flu-vaccination locations have been changed. As of Monday, Community Health Centres will operate the drop-in clinics. METRO CALGARY

Flu shot locations moved

## Hope for brain cancer patients

U of C study discovers an alternative drug

KRISTA SYLVESTER krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

**Brain-cancer survivor Rob** Evans knows how important hope is to a cancer pa-

Cancer-free for 15 years, Evans applauds a University of Calgary study discovering an alternative way to prevent aggressive brain tumours from spreading through a drug that is already being tested for Alzheimer's patients.

"What this does is bring an added hope to patients that wasn't there before. It's a possible way to treat brain cancer that isn't as invasive as others," Evans said.

Evans found out he had brain cancer 15 years ago and was quickly treated with a 7½-hour surgery followed by chemotherapy and radiation, but says this lot less side effects.

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Brain-cancer survivor Rob Evans, left, speaks with Dr. Stephen Robbins yesterday at the University of Calgary about a new medication set to give hope to cancer patients.

drug brings new hope.

Alberta Cancer Research Institute Dr. Stephen Robbins said the biggest thing about the alternative drug is the fact that there are a

The drug is already being tested in Alzheimer's patients and it's believed the medication can almost "switch" off the spread of the tumour to other areas.

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Conservatives most popular An EKOS poll conducted for CBC this week found support for the Conservatives at 44 per cent, up from the 37.6 per cent the party received in the October federal election. The poll found the Liberals down two points at 24 per cent, and the NDP down almost four points at 14.5 per cent. CBC NEWS ONLINE

# Canada



### **Don't bash Quebec: Charest**

**Parliament?** 

Greg

**Davidson** 

age 60, Calgary

A: I am a Conser-

vative supporter,

but I think this

was Harper's self-

maybe the Gov-

should have left

him to fend for

and

General

infliction

ernor

himself.

Quebec Liberal Leader Jean Charest, left, is urging Canadians not to let the political power struggle in Ottawa descend into Quebec-bashing. Charest condemned anti-separatist rhetoric aimed at Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, who has agreed to support a coalition of the Liberals and NDP. With more than 1.4 million voters supporting the party, the Bloc has earned ts political legitimacy, Charest insisted.

> Word on the street: Do you think the Governor General should have allowed

the prime minister to prorogue

**Mary** 

Clarke

age 25, Ottawa

A: Yes. Prorogue

is the better op-

tion because we

don't want to en-

ter into an elec-

tion right now. This gives every-

body time to

### Coalition to keep up fight

Tories, opposition have seven weeks to sway Canadians

NATION DIVIDED

The decision to prorogue Parliament didn't bring out the white flags of surrender for the Liberal-NDP coalition united to defeat the Conservatives.

But it changed the strategy of battle.

The fight moves from a now-shuttered Parliament Hill to the airwayes and Internet as Conservative MPs square off against the Liberal and NDP MPs trying to push them from office.

Instead of a quick victory over the Conservatives, the NDP, Liberal and Bloc Québécois MPs now face the prospect of a drawnout public-relations campaign over the holidays and early winter to win Canadians to their cause.

"I think both the coalition and Mr. Harper are going to be working hard on



Liberal leader Stephane Dion, centre, smiles as New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton, left, shakes hands with Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe during earlier this week in Ottawa.

presenting economic ideas to Canadians over the next six to seven weeks," said Liberal MP Bob Rae.

The creation of the political coalition — and the threat it presented to the Conservatives — had already sparked a public-re-

lations war by both sides, featuring radio ads, Internet blogging, talk shows and public demonstrations, like the pro-coalition rally on Parliament Hill yesterday, attended by thousands.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The percentage increase of traffic on metronews.ca following the parliamentary action yesterday — one of the highest days Metro has ever seen for web traffic.

### Simon

age 20, Edmonton

A: I think it's right, my biggest concern is if the coalition is going to ... become government, how much attention are the going to pay to the western provinces.

avoidance an tactic. They are trying to put everything on hold. If people want then

### change, people want change.

### separatists.

Mike Mauger age 37, Halifax

A: I didn't vote for the Conservative government, but I am really not happy with the coalition signing with the



### Mason

**Murfitt** age 31, Vancouver

Hilary

A: No. This is just

### Eric **Kinch** age 21, Calgary

A: I think with economy right now, it was very irresponsible of the government and the **Governor Gener**al to suspend parliament, to be



### Worst Quebec attacks in 20 years: Duceppe

**BQ** Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe reacted angrily to the parliamentary shutdown and accused the Tories of the worst rhetoric against Quebecers since the early 1990s.

"(Stephen Harper) asked his supporters to engage in the worst attacks against Quebecers since Meech Lake," Duceppe said after parliament was prorogued.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### Grits soldier on despite dissension

STRATEGY Worried about Harper's request to send Stéphane Dion's leadership and skeptical of Stephen Harper's new-found spirit of co-operation, the Liberals sought yesterday to chart their next moves in the wake of the temporary suspension of Parliament.

The future of the Liberal-New Democrat coalition that nearly toppled the Conservative minority appeared up in the air after Gov. Gen. Michäelle Jean agreed with MPs home until Jan. 26.

Liberals were reeling from Dion's inept performance in his nationally televised response to Harper on Wednesday night and nervous about the storm of anti-coalition reaction the Conservatives were able to whip up across the country in only a few days.

But, despite some dissent, the party insisted the majority of the 77-member caucus is standing solidly behind the coalition with the NDP that, tapping the support of the Bloc Québécois, had been until yesterday poised to bring down the Harper government and take power.

There was also anger that Harper escaped being dumped from power in a Commons confidence vote this coming Monday by appealing to Jean for a suspension of Parliament

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10 canada

Passport offices lax in protecting consumers, review finds

A review by Canada's federal privacy commissioner has found passport offices failed to adequately protect consumers' personal information, noting passport applications were stored in clear plastic bags and sensitive documents were thrown in trash cans and recycle bins. **CBC NEWS ONLINE** 

### Ottawa Pro-coalition rally on Parliament Hill



Thousands of people showed up to shout their support for a coalition government at rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday.

### Bloc bashing fueling separatists, expert says

QUEBEC Baffled by the intensity of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's aggressive condemnations of the Liberal-NDP coalition's deal with the Bloc Québécois, Quebecers are now weighing the consequences of his strategy.

"Maybe the rest of Canada is going to help Quebec separate, and that would

be great!" said Nathalie Pauzé, a graphic designer in Montreal, and evidently a sovereignist at heart.

Alain-G. Gagnon, a political scientist at the University of Quebec at Montreal, said Harper "in the last two days has done more damage to the Canadian national-unity cause than all the efforts he's

be great!" said Nathalie made in the last few Pauzé a graphic designer years."

The reason is that Quebecers, even those who aren't ardent separatists, tend to view the sovereignist parties as legitimate political formations. Quebecers feel they need parties that solely focus on their interests.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# West still mostly supports Harper

Conservative stronghold upset at coalition

### NATION DIVIDED

The only non-Conservative among Alberta's 28 MPs is preparing to do a lot of talking in the next few weeks.

"The sweater vest is off, the flak jacket is on," said Linda Duncan, the NDP member who took Edmonton-Strathcona on Oct. 14.

Duncan has received hundreds of e-mails over the last week or so, many of them negative.

Many in Alberta and the rest of the West have expressed anger over the coalition put together by the Liberals and the NDP, with the backing of the Bloc Québécois. Duncan believes it is time to let the rabble-rousing die down.

While Alberta Premier Stelmach is relieved Parliament was prorogued, he said he hopes Prime Minister Stephen Harper "I can say with confidence that people in the West still have confidence in the prime minister to hold our country together."

Don Plett, Conservative Party of Canada president

will be listening carefully to what the premiers say about the economy during a first ministers meeting Jan. 16.

Conservative Party of Canada president Don Plett has received non-stop calls over the past few days from Conservatives urging him to tell Harper to do whatever is necessary to stop the coalition.

"As someone from the West, I can say with confidence that people in the West still have confidence in the prime minister to hold our country together. People here aren't blaming Quebec. They're blaming the separatist party."

The Conservative party remains the dominant par-

ty in the West. The Liberals polled last in all four western provinces and have seven seats in total, while the NDP have 14 seats. The Conservatives have 71 seats.

Conservative supporter Kjell Wooding, who lives in the prime minister's riding of Calgary Southwest, said the crisis originated from having a leader who refused to back down.

"I've always been Conservative and Stephen Harper is my MP, but the guy does have the ability to rub people the wrong way. He is a bully and that's not productive, especially now," said Wooding.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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#### Southeast

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12 canada

Police have recovered the bodies of two Montreal-area men missing after a helicopter carrying four people crashed into a lake in western Quebec on Wednesday night. The two other men in the helicopter survived. CBC NEWS ONLINE

# Winner of the world's

### Canadian Joel Charlebois wins \$2,000, one-week trip to Paris

**CONTEST** Fifty-five thousand winner. The grand prize of based on the theme Urban tions flow in the contest. 120,000 comments over 500,000 visits to the web-(metrophotochal*lenge.com*) — and only one

the 2008 Metro Global Photo Challenge, goes to Toronto's Joel Charlebois for his eerie snapshot Midnight Tram to Humber,

Thousands of photographers from more than 20 countries in which Metro publishes let their inspira-

The global jury panel chaired by Marco Delogu, Italy's most sought-after the difficult task of picking two to Paris, where he will

the final 100 global entries.

As the global winner, Charlebois receives \$2,000 portrait photographer, had and a one-week trip for

the final photograph from have the chance to create a Parisian experience. Metro will publish his shots in all 84 editions worldwide.

Two dead after helicopter crash

**ROMINA MCGUINNESS** 



1. Midnight Tram to Humber, winner of the 2008 Metro Global Photo Challenge by Joel Charlebois, was shot on a Canon SD500 point-and-shoot camera.

### 4 runners-up

Three of top 5 finalists are Canadian entries









- 2. lydiamacintosh, Canada.
- 3. phil\_fortin, Canada.
- 4. Roman, Czech Republic.

### **loel:** I spent three hours waiting for the shot

Winner of the 2008 Metro Global Photo Challenge, Joel Charlebois, talks about his amazing month and reveals the recipe for a winning photo.

#### This has been a memorable month for you, hasn't it?

"Firstly, I was unemployed when I entered the competition and now I have a job, which is great. Then I got to take part in photo exhibition arranged by Metro. Seeing Midnight Tram to Humber exhibited and being admired by hundreds of people was a fantastic feeling. And this on the night of my 30th birthday! I then won the challenge globally, which is even more amazing."

How was the picture taken?

"A year ago, there had



Joel's passion is film.

been a few foggy nights in Toronto, and every time I would walk home in the

dark, I would wonder what it would be like to capture those eerie moments on camera."

"So one night, I wrapped up warm, took my backpack and little point-andshoot camera and spent three hours waiting for the perfect shot in the street. I wasn't working at the time, so I could afford to be up in the middle of the night."

#### How does it feel to be an amateur who has beaten professional photographers?

"It is a thrilling achievement. More so that I won with a photo I shot on a Canon SD500 point-andshoot and \$20 plastic tripod. It's motivation for anyone with an eye — but not necessarily the fancy tools — to keep shooting. Has winning the challenge

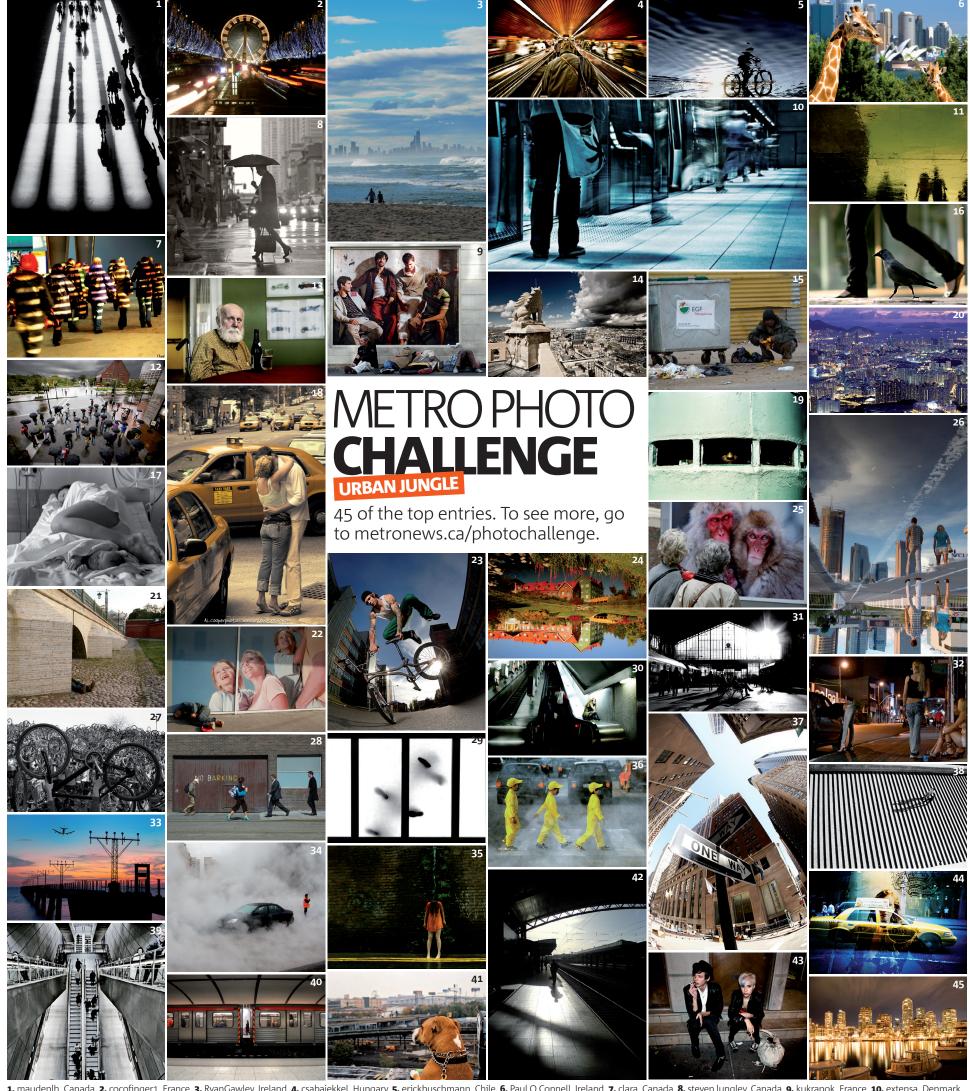
#### given you a boost to take photography more seriously?

"It has certainly given me a major boost — as well as an amazing camera to work with (a Nikon D700 as my prize) and not the little point-and-shoot I used previously. I am definitely going to try and use this opportunity to realize my dreams."

**ROMINA MCGUINNESS** 

canada 13

# largest photo contest



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Canada produced a record large canola crop this year and raised wheat output by nearly 43 per cent, Statistics Canada said yesterday, at a time when grain prices are slumping as a global recession worsens. REUTERS

### No small irony found in political drama

Governor General Michaëlle Jean not always popular with Harper's conservatives

### **NATION DIVIDED**

There is no small irony in **Prime Minister Stephen** Harper owing his government's near-term survival to none other than Governor General Michaelle

Until she granted Harper's precedent-setting request to suspend Parliament until late January, the Governor General hadn't exactly enjoyed a warm and respectful reception in Conservative ranks.

Appointed by then-Liberal prime minister Paul Martin in 2005, she seemed at first to be a surprising, but oddly fitting, choice for a country as multicultural as this one.

Jean, 51, is the first governor general to hail from Quebec since Jeanne Sauvé was appointed in 1984. She also became the first black person to hold the position and only the third woman, after Sauvé and Adrienne

Born in Haiti, she'd arrived here in 1968 when her

### The past...

Jean's other precedents never sat well with the Tories — from having to publicly declare she wasn't a Quebec separatist to her alleged political meddling.

family fled the brutal regime of François (Papa Doc) Duvalier. She blossomed in this country, earning multiple degrees and mastering five languages before becoming a prominent broadcaster in Quebec.

In introducing her, Martin had beamed that Jean's "personal story is nothing short of extraordinary."

The honeymoon was short.

immediately Almost there were suspicions that Jean's appointment was a crass bid to boost Liberal fortunes in Quebec.

And Jean found herself having to dismiss suggestions she was appointed because she's from a visible minority. "Here is who I am," she'd replied to a re-



Governor General Michaelle Jëan allowed the PM to suspend parliament until the new year.

porter's question then, holding her arms wide apart. "I have never been a token, sir. And will never

There followed damning rumours about the alleged separatist leanings of Jean and husband Jean-Daniel Lafond, a Quebec documentary filmmaker.

And then the matter of her holding dual French and Canadian citizenship, with veterans outraged that the potential commander-inchief of the Canadian Forces would also be a foreign citi-

Some threatened to turn their backs on her at the next Remembrance Day cer-

Harper himself huffed that he was "waiting for somebody in the Prime Minister's Office to put out some information that's contrary to what we're reading in the papers now."

Jean ended up renouncing her French citizenship and issuing an extraordinary statement.

"Let me be clear: We have never belonged to a political party or the separatist movement," she wrote in English, adding in French that the couple never subscribed to the "sovereignist ideology.'

The statement was itself a break from tradition, since governors-general-in-

waiting normally eschew any public profile. By the fall of 2006, Tory insiders were dismissing Jean as an intellectual lightweight with a penchant for meddling. That would include her politically charged support for the Afghan mission and an intimate dinner party she held for Afghan president Hamid Karzai.

As a Harper confidante put it then: "It's just plain unacceptable for a GG to be doing this sort of thing."

At about that time, Harper decided to dispense with the regular chats and political updates that have historically taken place between prime ministers and governors general.

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### RA clamps down on gift schemes

DONATIONS More than \$2.5 billion in charitable donations connected to tax shelters have been denied by the federal taxman in the last few years with more to come, government officials say.

The tax shelters are schemes inviting people to make a \$5,000 donation to buy AIDS-fighting drugs for Africa or to improve literacy in Canada, in return for a \$30,000 charitable tax receipt.

Yesterday, the Canadian Revenue Agency said in many cases it has found these schemes to be a sham.

"Despite numerous warnings and audit actions ... some taxpayers are still participating in tax-shelter schemes," agency said in a terse statement. Auditors are looking

"Despite numerous warnings and audit actions ... some taxpayers are still participating in tax-shelter gifting schemes."

Statement by the Canadian Revenue Agency

most cases have found "no gift being made," so the agency reduces the value of the receipt to zero.

That means at least 65,000 Canadians who thought they were getting a big break on their taxes have been told they must pay back thousands of dollars, with some also facing hefty penalties.

In its statement yesterday, the agency said taxpayers who confess their involvement in a shelter have a good chance of paying lower penalties.

Meanwhile, the federal

at all of the schemes and in charity regulator (a division of the revenue agency) continues to revoke the status of charities entwined in these financial schemes.

Six charities have had their status revoked this year, including the Toronto-based International Charity Association Net-

**65,000** Number of Canadians who will be asked to pay back thousands of tax dollars to the Canadian Revenue Agency.

work, Banyan Tree Foundation, and the Choson Kallah Fund.

Also revoked was the status of the Francis Jude Wilson Foundation of Montreal and the Pinnacle Foundation of Vancouver.

An ongoing Toronto Star investigation of charities into the charity world has found dozens of other tax shelters operating in Cana-

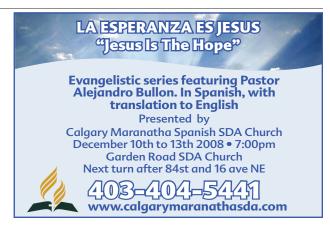
The promoters then enlist accountants through seminars and the accountants to market them.

Typically, the shelter is set up by a group of business people who create a promotional scheme that involves some form of decent-sounding charitable work, such as the purchase overseas of much needed medication (like AIDS drugs). Torstar News Service



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Gunmen attacked two oil-service vessels in separate incidents in Nigeria's Niger delta yesterday, kidnapping a Russian, a Mexican and seven Nigerians, security sources working in the industry said. The vessel Oceanic Orion was attacked some 13 nautical miles off the coast near a crude oil rig operated by Canada's Addax Petroleum. REUTERS

# World



### **Lack of evidence on Olmert**

Israel's chief prosecutor said yesterday there was not enough evidence to charge outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, over his conduct in the sale of an Israeli commercial bank, one of several probes against him.Olmert resigned in September in the face of several corruption investigations, but is serving as caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed after a Feb. 10 election.

### U.S. vows to keep pushing Pakistan

**SHOOTING** Pakistan must cooperate fully and communicate with India after the Mumbai attacks, the White House said yesterday, vowing to keep the pressure on to ensure that happened.

"Pakistan needs to act with resolve, urgency. They need to co-

operate fully "Pakistan parently and needs to they need to act with keep the line of com- resolve, munication **urgency.**" open be- Dana tween their country and Perino India,

White House spokes-woman Dana Perino said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on a trip to the region aimed at curbing tension between India and Pakistan, said last week's Mumbai attack that saw 171 people killed by militants showed a level of sophistication unseen in the region and urgent action was needed.

> REUTERS MORE COVERAGE PG 20



Israeli police officers evict a Jewish settler from a disputed building in the West Bank city of Hebron

### **Israel evicts settlers**

Israeli police used tear gas and clubs to evict hardline Jewish settlers from a building in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday, igniting a wave of settler violence across the Palestinian territory.

The lightning operation by hundreds of policemen and soldiers ended in less than an hour.

About 30 settlers suffered light-to-moderate injuries, mostly from smoke men were hurt by settlers, who threw rocks, chemicals and food at them.

Angry Jewish settlers, some armed, responded by setting fire to Palestinian cars and property near the building. Eight Palestinians were hurt, including from three gunshot wounds.

Settler violence quickly spread to other areas of the Israeli-occupied West

inhalation. Three police- Bank with security forces moving to quell the protests. After a few hours of protests in Hebron, at around midnight, local residents reported clashes had largely died down.

Tensions have been especially high in the flashpoint city since the Israeli High Court on Nov. 16 ordered settlers to vacate the building they have been occupying since March 2007. **REUTERS** 

# Police's DNA storage ruled rights violation

EVIDENCE Britain violated who was charged with hathe privacy of two people by storing their DNA profiles, Europe's human rights court ruled yesterday, a decision that calls into question rules governing the use of the country's DNA database.

British groups campaigning for individual liberties immediately demanded a change in the law, which the government rejected.

The case centred on a boy who was charged with attempted robbery and later acquitted, and a man

rassing his partner before the case was discontinued.

Both applied for their fingerprints and DNA samples to be destroyed, but police kept the information on the basis of a law allowing them to keep it indefinitely.

The 17 judges ruled unanimously that Britain had violated the right to respect for private life. They awarded the two people concerned 42,000 euros in expenses.

**REUTERS** 

### **News** in brief

**ALCOHOL** Bars, breweries and beverage companies across the United States plan to mark the 75th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition today. From 1920 until its repeal in

1933, the 18th Amendment banned the manufacture,

sale and distribution of intoxicating liquor nationwide. **CRUISE** A luxury Antarctic cruise ship carrying 122 passengers started to take on

> aground yesterday. No one was hurt.

water after it ran

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18 world

Microsoft acquires former Yahoo exec

Microsoft Corp, in its continuing push to compete in the critical area of Internet search, yesterday tapped a former senior Yahoo Inc. executive, Qi Lu, to head its online services group. REUTERS

#### **News** in brief

**CREDIT** Mexico's Senate passed a bill yesterday prohibiting banks from sending clients pre-approved credit cards, extending credit limits without clients' consent, and other practices that can get people into debt over their heads. FOREIGN AID Small European nations led by the Netherlands do more than major industrial economies like the United States when it comes to helping poor countries, according to the 2008 Commitment to Development Index released yesterday.

### Fertility problems, second-hand smoke linked

HEALTH Women who breathed in second-hand smoke as children or young adults were later more likely to have trouble getting pregnant and suffer more miscarriages than women not exposed to smoke, U.S. researchers reported yesterday.

They said toxins in the smoke could have permanently damaged the women's bodies, causing the later problems, and said

their finding support restrictions on smoking.

Researchers at the University of Rochester in New York studied 4,800 women. Those who remembered their parents smoking around them were 26 per cent more likely to have had difficulty becoming pregnant and women exposed to any second-hand smoke were 39 per cent more likely to have had a miscarriage.

### **Brazil axes offsets**

Brazil yesterday ruled out letting rich countries offset their greenhouse gas emissions by helping to save the Amazon rain forest, an idea under active discussion by the European Union.

Indigenous peoples attending United Nations-led climate talks in Poznan protested that they had no chance of seeing such carbon cash, and appealed instead for money first to root out corruption and cement their land rights.

EU member states yesterday debated widening that scheme to allow "forest offsetting" — letting coun-

### **Carbon offsets**

- The global carbon market caps greenhouse gases in rich countries.
- They can exceed these targets, but only if they pay for corresponding emissions cuts in the developing world.

tries and companies compensate for excess carbon emissions by funding tropical forest conservation.

A French draft paper seen by Reuters on Wednesday suggested the bloc could allow forest offsetting as an way to help companies meet carbon obligations more cheaply during a recession — a reversal of proposals by the EU's executive Commission in October.

Last week Brazil said the rate of Amazon deforestation increased in the year to July for the first time in four years. But the country would block the use of offsets for forest protection under a new climate treaty, Brazil's representatives said yesterday, explaining that would absolve rich countries from cutting their own emissions.

REUTERS

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### The Hague Children's Peace Prize Awarded



Mayra Avellar Neves of Brazil receives the Children's Peace Prize from Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a ceremony in The Hague yesterday.

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### Former Refco lawyer indicted on fraud charges

FRAUD An ex lawyer for collapsed commodities broker Refco Finance Holdings LLC was indicted on additional charges yesterday for efforts to fraudulently obtain hundreds of

millions in revolving lines of credit from a group of banks, U.S. prosecutors said.

additional charges yesterday for efforts to fraudulently obtain hundreds of They said Joseph Collins, 58, of Winnetka, Illinois, as its longtime outside counsel, helped Refco management conceal from The Chase Manhattan Bank and its successor JP-Morgan Chase Bank various loan transactions.

REUTERS



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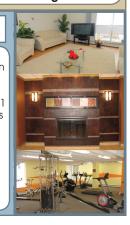
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world **19** 

# Fed to clarify loan power

The U.S. Federal Reserve is expected to send a letter to a key lawmaker today explaining that it must obtain sufficient collateral under law to make any emergency loans, a source familiar with the letter said yesterday.

The letter is a response to a request from Democrat Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, who sought clarification of the Fed's powers under a clause of the Federal Reserve Act that the U.S. central bank has repeatedly invoked this year to provide emergency funding to a range of financial institutions buffeted by the financial crisis.

The possibility of Fed loans to U.S. carmakers arose during a committee

### **Background**

• The Fed has provided hundreds of billions of dollars to banks and other financial institutions against a wide range of collateral, including U.S. Treasury securities and debt securities issued by mortgage-finance enterprises.

hearing earlier yesterday about Detroit's request for \$34-billion US in federal

Lawmakers at the hearing asked why the Fed could not loan money to help General Motors and Chrysler, which have said they urgently need a cash infusion. Ford Motor is asking for a line of credit from the federal government.

REUTE

### Germany **Twisted performance**



An African artist performs during the show Afrika-Afrika, produced by Austrian multimedia artist Andre Heller in Dortmund, Germany, yesterday.

### Judge dismisses JPMorgan-Bear merger suit

COURT A New York judge yesterday dismissed a \$2.5billion US lawsuit that challenged JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s purchase of Bear Stearns Co., concluding that company officials acted appropriately in avoiding a "potentially cataclysmic" bankruptcy.

Justice Herman Cahn of New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan rejected claims by former Bear shareholders that the company's directors acted in bad faith in agreeing to a \$10-per-share buyout, rather than holding out for a higher price.

REUTERS

## Take Mugabe down if it is needed: Tutu

ZIMBABWE South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday that Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe must step down or be removed by force.

Asked on a Dutch current affairs TV program if Mugabe, who has been in power since independence from Britain in 1980,

should be removed "If they say Tutu said: to him: **'Step** "Yes, by force — if down,' and they say he refuses, to him: they must **'Step** down,' (act) and he militarily." refuses, Desmond they

must (act) militarily."

Tutu, who was one of the leading voices against the former apartheid regime in South Africa, said the African Union or the Southern African Development Community would have the capacity to remove Mugabe.

#### **News** in brief

BRITAIN The Bank of England is considering engaging in "quantitative easing" — printing more money to reflate the

economy, according to an unsourced report in the Daily Telegraph yesterday.

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20 world

Bank of America Corp. will sharply cut lending to coal mining companies that take the tops off mountains, following pressure from groups that call the practice an environmental hazard. Coal is abundant in the United States but also a relatively dirty fuel. REUTERS

## Mumbai gunmen survived?

Several attackers may have survived the threeday siege of Mumbai that killed 171 people, analysts said yesterday.

"I think there are more. My sources say (there were) at least 23 of the gunmen," said Farhana Ali, a former CIA and Rand Corp. counterterrorism analyst and expert on militant networks.

Ali, who most recently visited India and Pakistan last month before the attacks, said her information

came from Pakistan, but declined to further identify the source.

"If that's true, that makes one wonder why we haven't seen more attacks. Are they lying low?" she said. "I think they (Indian authorities) are bracing themselves for more."

A security scare at the New Delhi airport early Friday New Delhi time, in which media reported a shootout after what India's NDTV described as two sharp sounds, underscored

### **High-level professional training**

• The fighters had high-level professional training, David Kilcullen said. They entered the city by sea, launched diversionary strikes, and seized two hotels and a Jewish centre, where they held off authorities and rampaged for three days.

the country's raw nerves. NDTV said a police sweep turned up nothing unusual and a witness said operations appeared normal.

Indian authorities have said 10 gunmen took part in the Mumbai attacks last week. But reports early in the attacks cited police as estimating there were 25 gunmen.

Authorities captured one, who was interrogated, and killed nine. Indian and U.S. officials blame the attacks on Lashkar-e-Taiba a Pakistan-based group that the United States in May designated a

Beagle pact Holding strong 30 years later

terrorist organization.

David Kilcullen, who has served as a senior counterterrorism adviser to U.S. Gen. David Petraeus and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, said he agreed that there were probably more attackers.

They equipped themselves with fake identification and wore Western clothes with clean-shaven faces, indicating they probably did not view the attack as a suicide operation.

REUTERS

### Gore not interested in Obama post

Bank cuts coal loans

**ENVIRONMENT** With his national security and economic teams largely in place, U.S. president-elect Barack Obama is turning his attention to filling top energy and environmental posts, although Nobel Peace laureate Al Gore appears to be out of the mix.

The posts still up for

Top pick

Carol Brow-

ner, who was

EPA adminis-

trator under

leads Obama's

energy and

force, is a top

chief position.

Bill Clinton

grabs in- <sub>I</sub> clude energy secretary, administrator of the Environmental Agency, and a newly cre- and currently ated climate

the environment But most high- transition task profile person said to contender for have been in the climate contention

post, former vice-president

REUTERS

Protection "czar."

for the latter

Al Gore, is not interested.

Another potential superstar pick — Republican California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — is also out of the picture.

"He has not been approached and he is not interested," said spokesperson Aaron McLear, adding the governor intended to finish out his term, which ends in January 2011.

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### **Democrats to get** control of senate

**DISSIDENTS** New York state Democratic Sen. Malcolm Smith has won the support of three dissidents who flirted with backing the Republicans, giving the Democrats control of the state senate for the first time since 1965, an Albany-based spokesman for Smith said yesterday.

This means Democrats now control all state-wide offices.

REUTERS

### U.S. military planning a 'realistic' missile-shield test

**SYSTEM** The U.S. military is set to run a "realistic" test Friday of a system built to knock out long-range missiles that could be fired by North Korea or Iran, the Pentagon said. The drill over the Pacific will be the first since September 2007 involving an attempted intercept by the sole U.S. shield against long-range ballistic missiles.

Chile President Michelle Bachelet, right, and her Argentinean counterpart Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner shake hands before a meeting in Punta Arenas yesterday. The heads of state met to reaf-

firm the bilateral relationship and celebrate 30 years of the papal mediation that averted an

armed conflict over the Beagle Channel, which links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

U.S. President George W.

Bush has been spending roughly \$10 billion a year on all aspects of missile de-

President-elect Barack Obama, on his transition website, says he supports missile defence, but will avoid drawing resources from other national security priorities "until we are positive the technology will protect the American public." REUTERS

### **Chief indicted** after boy killed

SHOT A police chief was indicted yesterday for involuntary manslaughter in the death of an 8-year-old boy who accidentally shot himself in the head with an Uzi submachine gun at a Massachusetts weapons show in Westfield, about 160 km west of the state capital Boston.

Christopher Bizilj lost control of the weapon on Oct. 26 at the Machine Gun Shoot & Firearms Expo, police said.

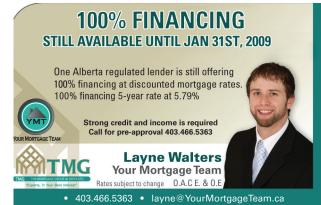
Massachusetts law bars the furnishing of machine guns to minors.

REUTERS





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# Comment & Views

**Comment** 

### Tricky Dick back again

**OmniVision** 



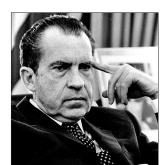
ike most of my generation, born in the mid '60s, I watched that decade and the grinding transition to the '70s over the shoulders of my parents and older sib-

Their relationship to Richard Nixon — as fervent as the tie they had with Pierre Trudeau, though usually for different reasons — was one we could only witness, though like the Mexican blankets and plastic chairs that they once used to decorate their homes, we inherited it as we moved into our adult lives.

I can't help but compare it to the scene in Ang Lee's movie of Rick Moody's novel The Ice Storm, set during the Watergate hearings, when Christina Ricci puts on a rubber Nixon mask as she makes out with Elijah Wood. The confusion and trauma on his face is priceless, and if he wasn't dead before the credits rolled, you knew that he was going to carry that emotional scar with him for the rest of his life. Death, it seemed, was the preferable alternative.

The release of Frost/Nixon this weekend marks the peak of yet another cycle in Nixon's posthumous half-life, the ebbing and surging of public fascination with the man, played in Ron Howard's film by Frank Langella as halfway between an impersonation and an interpreta-

Sam Rockwell's portrayal of writer James Reston Jr., one of the team who helped David Frost with his landmark four-part televised interview with the disgraced



**Richard Nixon** 

president, echoes the betrayal we saw in our parents and especially our older brothers and sisters as they confronted Nixon before, during and after Watergate.

I think my generation has always been more ambivalent, though no less fascinated by Nixon, and the film connects with our image of the "tragic" Nixon when, at the end of their verbal battle, Langella's Nixon tells Frost that his biggest regret is how his betrayal of public trust has made politics irredeemably compromised and

corrupt for young people from 1973 on.

It's a bit disingenuous there have been devastating political scandals before, and disillusioning young people is only marginally less difficult than getting them to listen to bad music. Just as a hyperbolic ululation to transformative change peaks, there's always something like this week's parliamentary crotchkicking to remind us that getting and holding power is often the only real policy a politician will wholeheartedly embrace. I don't know if my Nixon is better than the one looming over the political imagination of my older brother and sister, but I know I prefer our Nixon, betrayed by his own ambition and no less human for it, to the bogeyman who taunted my siblings from his ghostly lair in San Clemente.

> Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

### Letters

#### Don't blow roses up my backside and call it politics

Re: Sweater Threadbare by Andrew Cohen, Dec. 4

I wanted to respond to Andrew Cohen's commentary on Mr. Harper's detrimental lack of "charisma." What I dislike about Canadians is our need to have a politician blow roses up our backsides to distract us from their greedy hands in our pockets. It seems we are happy to be taken advantage of and lied to as long as the politician in question is doing it nicely.

I am not going on a date with Mr. Harper. I don't need him to romance me or be my best friend. However, I need a strong, intelligent leader who has his priorities straight to govern my country.

It was cheap for Mr. Cohen to scoff at how Tory strategists chose sweaters to make him look more approachable. But if that's the worst the left-wingers can do to defame our PM, it just reinforces how the weakness of their arguments are so ironically well matched to their leaders. Finally, if Mr. Harper laid a "blow upon a bruise," it's nothing compared to what coalition parties will do to themselves if they get their way

- this time, they may never get up. TARRAH HALL, CALGARY, AB

#### Time to bone up on your parliamentary knowledge

I'm surprised and baffled that so many Canadians have little knowledge of the parliamentary Constitution. We don't elect a prime minister. We elect a Parliament. It is then the responsibility of that Parliament to choose a leader.

> DAN GOULET, TORONTO, ON

#### Pandora's box now open

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean made a serious error in shutting down Parliament. From this point forward, any leader to follow has a legal argument that they can suspend Parliament anytime it disagrees with a PM.EUGENE PARKS, VICTORIA, B.C.

### **America looking better**

Say what you want about America, but at least their constitution guarantees people can vote whoever they want into power for four years, without the threat of a shady backroom deal bringing them down weeks after taking power. ORESTES ROBLEDO,

TORONTO, ON

### **Views**

### Defend a tree, defend democracy



Looking for solid leadership? Maybe back to basics is best. Start with a symbol of the season — our trees. Fix the city's ambivalence about protecting trees, and we've fixed democracy.

In the Tipping Point, writer Malcolm Gladwell showed that when New York City cracked down on nonpaying public transit users, all transit crime decreased. Here, if our city truly defends our trees, good things will follow.

City parks officials try valiantly by posting yellow signs with dollar values on mature trees. A pair of American Elms in Rideau Park was posted at \$65,000, after a tip they were to be cut down.

A pine in St. Andrews is posted at \$12,999. It's an attempt at education, with little real consequence.

It's against the rules to cut down a tree on city land without a permit. But of the 300 formal complaints about felled trees over three years, there were only nine fines. Why have a bylaw at all? Bring out the chain saws. Have a bonfire. The city says it "negotiates" with the offenders. How do you negotiate over a stump? Fines would seem to be the better route but they are already too low, only \$100 to \$1,000. It's not like these trees will grow back in our lifetime.

It's time to support our city horticulturists and their efforts to replant, and preserve mature trees.

"In a good market economy, trees are a cost of doing business," says Russell Friesen, City of Calgary horti-

The city says it "negotiates" with the offenders. How do you negotiate over a stump? Fines would seem to be the better route but they are already too low, only \$100 to \$1,000.

culturalist, "If a developer is willing to pay the city can't stand on the way."

Indeed, the city never says no to a developer who needs to remove a tree for utilities.

The city hasn't evaluated our tree cover for 11 years. Then, it estimated we have only seven per cent of the tree canopy needed to suck up carbon dioxide, reduce pollution, absorb dust and add beauty. It's easy to imagine that percentage has fallen — probably, well short of

damage caused by developers, the Parks Department re-

In an effort to mitigate

the 20 per cent goal.

plants. It takes the fees developers pay to cut down a tree and uses it for the Neighbourwoods Program. The city supplies trees free to 10 neighbourhoods most affected, and charges \$30 for a water bag to be planted with it. The city says someone who pays the \$30 will protect, water, and love that tree. In all, some \$300,000 of developer fees was spent on the program last year, but this is declining — owed to a recent slowdown in construction.

If you see a tree being cut down, call 311, take a video. or photographs. Call on the city to do its part. Restore our natural order, and good things will flow, from the ground up.

Janice Paskey teaches journalism at Mount Royal College, serves on her community association board and is proud mom to two boys.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Norway's StatoilHydro said yesterday it scrapped plans to build a \$16-billion US upgrader for its Alberta oilsands holdings, the latest in a string of big-ticket cancellations amid the economic turmoil. REUTERS

# Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

### **Bankruptcies soar** as economy sinks

The number of personal bankruptcies in Canada soared by more than 20 per cent in October as individuals came under increased pressure from deteriorating economic conditions, according to a report released yesterday.

The Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada said a total of 9,468 bankruptcies were filed in October by consumers and businesses. That represents a 7.2 per cent increase from September and a hefty 21.1 per cent jump from the same month in 2007.

According to the report, the majority of filings came from individual Canadians, who saw world stock markets plummet during October as the global financial crisis gathered

### **Businesses**

 Among businesses, the construction sector led the way with 97 bankruptcy filings, which was 32.9 per cent above October 2007. The retail-trade sector was next with 68 filings, which was 5.6 per cent below last year.

momentum.

The report showed that 8,972 consumers filed for personal bankruptcy in October. That was up 7.5 per cent from September and 22.8 per cent higher than the same month in 2007.

Bankruptcies filed by businesses totaled 496, just 1.4 per cent higher than in September and actually down 3.3 per cent from October 2007. **REUTERS** 

### Luxury Spending not slowing



Models stand next to M.V. Augusta motorcycles during the opening day of the 2008 Luxury Show in Bucharest yesterday. Despite the cash squeeze that has hastened recession globally, organizers still expect a high demand for luxury goods.

### **Business** in brief

**EARNINGS** TD Bank, National Bank and CIBC all reported lower profits yesterday, but the re-

market expectations or with the banks' own warnings in recent weeks

REUTERS

### Purchasing, building permits sag as economy slows in Q4

FINDINGS Canadian purchasing activity contracted to its lowest level yet last month, while building permits fell sharply in October, two reports showed yesterday, providing strong indications of a slower fourth quarter.

The Ivey Purchasing Managers Index fell to 40.2 in November from 52.2 in October, while the value of Canadian building permits fell by a steeper than expected 15.7 per cent in October, off September's 12.5 per cent increase. REUTERS

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### **Baseball salaries slow**

Baseball salaries slowed this year even before the economy cooled. The average salary in Major League Baseball this season was \$2.93 million US, the players' association said yesterday. The 3.6 per cent increase was the smallest since 2004. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Sports



### **Avery decision expected today**

The Dallas Stars' Sean Avery, left, spent three hours in a disciplinary hearing with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman yesterday in New York over lewd comments made on camera Tuesday in Calgary. Avery is suspended indefinitely and Bettman will determine any further punishment. "I want to take the opportunity to spend a little time thinking about what transpired at the hearing and everything that I was told and that needs to be considered," Bettman said during his weekly radio show.

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

### **Skiing conditions** As of Thursday, Dec. 4

- Sunshine 0 cm past 24 hours, 78 cm base, 11 lifts open, 66 runs open
- Lake Louise 2 cm last 24 hours, 86cm, 6 lifts open, 29 runs open
- Mount Norquay 1 cm last 24 hours, 50 cm base, 3 lifts open, 5 runs open
- Castle Mountain 7 cm last 24 hours, 30 cm base, 0 runs open
- Panorama 0 cm last 24 hours, 0 runs open 0 lifts open, opens Dec. 12
- Fernie Expected to open Dec. 13
- Kicking horse Expected to open Dec. 12
- Canada Olympic Park -Limited runs, but all runs should be open Dec. 20
- Nakiska 2 cm last 24 hours, 30 cm base, 0 lifts 0 runs open
- Revelstoke 0 cm last 24 hours, 75 cm base, 3 lifts open, 12 runs open

### Triano gets his turn in Toronto

### First Canadian head coach in NBA history takes charge of Raptors

Over five years and countless hours of practice sessions, games and the downtime that marks an **NBA season, Chris Bosh** has reached a nice comfort level with Jay Tri-

Nothing should change now that there's been an alteration in Triano's job description.

"I'm comfortable with Jay, he's been in a head coaching position before with the Canadian national team, he's just not in unknown waters right now," Bosh said after a two-hour workout in Utah yesterday morning.

There was no large measure of remorse among the Raptors a day after Sam Mitchell was fired. The NBA can be a tough business, everyone knows, and



Jay Triano acted as head coach for one game last year a 109-91 Raptors victory over the Nets

players while Mitchell's co-workers are far from blameless on his demise, there was far more looking forward than back. "Me and Sam were very close but that's a decision that the front office made and we have to move with it," said Bosh. "We all accept it and I'm sure that Sam is moving on just like we are.

Triano, 50, takes over an 8-9 team that some — primarily general manager Bryan Colangelo — thinks should have a better record.

Triano, a native of Niagara Falls, Ont., gets the job after spending seven seasons on the Raptors bench working for Lenny Wilkens, Kevin O'Neill and Mitchell.

"I think he's the best guy for the job," said Bosh. "I think everybody knows what they're doing up top (that's) the reason why

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Boston 3 Tampa Bay 1

Detroit 6 Vancouver 5 Florida 2 Buffalo 1

Nashville 3 Colorado 2 New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 2 (OT) Pittsburgh 5 Carolina 2 Washington 5 N.Y. Islanders 2 they put Jay as the interim head coach. We all have a comfort level with him, he wants to work hard and he wants to win basketball games just like we do.

'Jay knows the game he's played the game and he's motivating us to just go out there and read each other and just play basketball."

"Obviously, I'm going to go in having a plan as to how I can maximize having our best players on the floor for the most amount of time but things change. If I have in my mind, okay, CB's coming out at the eight minute mark ... if he makes five in a row just prior to the eight minute mark, I'm going to let it go.

"It's a read that you have

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES** 

#### **NHL RESULTS**

#### **Red Wings** 6 Canucks 5



Jiri Hudler and Daniel Cleary each scored a pair of goals to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 6-5 win over the Vancouver Canucks last night as the two teams put an early wrap on their season series from Joe Louis Arena.

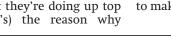
Henrik Sedin had a goal and assist while Taylor Pyatt, Kyle Wellwood, Mason Raymond and Alex Burrows each found the back of the net for the Canucks, who had handed the Red Wings a pair of defeats earlier this year, posting a pair of overtime wins.

#### Covotes 6 Maple Leafs 3



Martin Hanzal had his first three-goal game in the NHL, and Steven Reinprecht added a pair of third-period goals in the Phoenix Coyotes' 6-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs last night. Alexei Ponikarovsky scored twice, and Jason Blake had a goal and two assists for Toronto. The Maple Leafs have

lost two straight. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Colorado at Dallas Edmonton at Los Angeles

Calgary at St. Louis

LAST NIGHT'S RESULT San Diego 34 Oakland 7

**SCOREBOARD** 

SUNDAY'S GAMES Minnesota at Detroit Cleveland at Tennessee

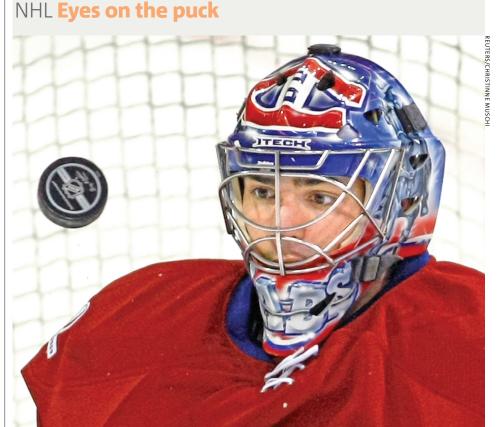
Houston at Green Bay

Jacksonville at Chicago Cincinnati at Indianapolis New England at Seattle N.Y. Jets at San Francisco Kansas City at Denve St. Louis at Arizona Washington at Baltimor Miami vs. Buffalo (at Toronto)

Atlanta at New Orleans

Tampa Bay at Carolina





Canadiens goaltender Carey Price eyes the puck before making a save during second period of Montreal's game against the New York Rangers last night. The Habs won 6-2.



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Barry Melrose will return to ESPN as a hockey analyst on Jan. 1.

Melrose was fired as coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning last month. METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Chelios sent to minors

**NHL** The Detroit Red Wings assigned veteran defenseman Chris Chelios to Grand Rapids of the American Hockey League yesterday on a conditioning assignment. Chelios has yet to play a game this season as he suffered a fractured right tibia in an exhibition game at Montreal on Sept. 30. The 46year-old Chelios is in his 25th NHL season and his 10th with Detroit. In 1,616 NHL games, Chelios has recorded 185 goals, 948 points and 2,873 penalty minutes.

### Greene traded to Cardinals

MLB The St. Louis Cardinals acquired shortstop Khalil Greene from the San Diego Padres yesterday. St. Louis shipped pitcher Mark Worrell and a player to be named later to San Diego for Greene. One year removed from belting 27 home runs, Greene's production dropped drastically last season, as he hit just .213 with 10 homers, while striking out 100 times in 105 games.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

www.metronews.ca/australia

### An NFL sellout that isn't really sold out

lot of us Canadians, it turns out, aren't suckers. We're not idiots. We're not willing to pay outrageous, absurd prices for an NFL game just because it will be the first regular-season one on Canadian soil.

Clearly, fans have said no to the NFL's historic tilt at the Rogers Centre on Sunday afternoon and will either be leaving a considerable number of seats empty or paying more reasonable amounts for tickets than the game's organizers initially sought. In fact, visitors to websites such as craigslist.ca or kijiji.ca will find they can purchase tickets at half the original asking prices for non-VIP seats, which ranged from \$110 to \$350.

Oh, technically, the game's a sellout. Organizers with the Rogers corporation claimed almost all remaining tickets yesterday, I'm told, thus ensuring a theoretical sellout and eliminating any possibility of a local television blackout of the match between the Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins.



But, "If you wait till Sunday morning (to check websites), I'm sure tickets will be going for even less than half price," said Gus Lambrinakos, co-operator of the Ultimate Touch Football League in Toronto and the owner of season-ticket subscriptions for nine NFL

teams.
"I mean, you're talking about Buffalo and Miami, not the Super Bowl. People aren't stupid. They (organizers) overestimated the public. They thought they'd

### **About Avery**

 Controversial NHLer Sean Avery was extremely close to becoming a Maple Leaf before this season, Metro sports columnist Marty York has learned. For details, check out metronews.ca/nhlreport.



August's pre-season game between Buffalo and Pittsburgh in Toronto drew a few thousand people short of a sellout. Most blame exorbitantly priced tickets.

be well received but they're getting a rude awakening."

Lambrinakos himself purchased several end-zone tickets for Sunday's game at \$140 each a few months ago but, because of his distaste for the NFL exhibition game at the Rogers Centre in August, he sold his seats for a slight profit and instead will be in New Jersey Sunday to watch the Philadelphia Eagles visit the New York Giants.

For that game, Lambrinakos paid \$110 US for a seat on the 30-yard line.

• A question about the Raptors' decision to fire Sam Mitchell as coach: WHAT TOOK SO LONG?

Mitchell was a liability. Several Raptors couldn't stomach him. He was ornery, arrogant, condescending and confrontational. It's wrong, however, that Raps bossman Bryan Colangelo gets a

free pass from many. His team is weak, lacking depth.

• NBA superstar LeBron James isn't a free agent for two years but www.beton-line.com already lists the Cleveland Cavaliers as 6-to-5 favourites to re-sign him. The New York Knicks follow the Cavs at 5-to-2. The Raptors, believe it or not, aren't that far behind in The LeBron Sweepstakes — at 15-to-1.



No purchase necessary. Contest open to all Canadian residents of legal age. Contest closes December 10, 2008. Approximate retail value of prize is \$10,000. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit



**Visit metronews.ca/movies** to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

# Movies& Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA TINA COSTANZA METRONEWS CA

### **Movies**

### **Out of this world**

pg 28



Keanu Reeves discusses his latest sci-fi role — the extraterrestrial Klaatu in the updated version of the film The Day The Earth Stood Still — including the challenges of trying to make a "believable" alien.

# movies pg 29

metro

Milk tells the story of a "martyr" for gay community.



Alan Cross muses over which band defines this decade.



Folk-rock band Everest on tour with Neil Young, Wilco.

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### 28 movies&entertainment

Also in theatres

Also opening this week is the action film Punisher: War Zone. Visit metronews.ca/movies this Sunday for a review of the movie. You can also read the review in Monday's issue of Metro. METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

### Keanu makes the earth stand still

TALIA SOGHOMONIAN

Keanu Reeves has an incredible presence, inviting, sophisticated and sure of himself. The actor stars as the extraterrestrial Klaatu in the reworking of Robert Wise's 1951 masterpiece, The Day The Earth Stood Still — in theatres next Friday.

Looking elegant in the equally chic surroundings of the Ritz, Keanu Reeves tells us more.

Congratulations, you manage to come across as a scary alien without any overacting or weird physical traits.

Thank you. It was scary to play an alien because it has to be believable. So I'm glad that you went along with the story. I approached it like any other role. I was trying to figure out what did the alien want, who was it,

### On the web

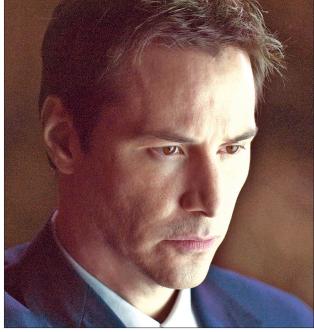
• Visit metronews.ca/ movies to see a trailer from the new version of The Day The Earth Stood Still, and clips from the 1951 version.

how does it exist. And I just came up with ideas for that and tried to play the role.



Did you watch the original?

Yeah, sure. But this version of the film, and specifically Klaatu, the character that I play, is very different ... In the original, the alien comes to Earth and, in a way, he's more human than humans. He has a very soft, personable, friendly disposition, and in my interpretation — or in terms of this story's interpretation, that's not the case. He's much more objective and distant and



Keanu Reeves plays the extraterrestrial Klaatu in the updated version of the sci-fi film The Day The Earth Stood Still.

perhaps a little more cold.

Both the original and this remake carry strong messages for humankind.

The original was more about violence and the expansion of violence. The alien came and said, "If you continue with this violent path, we will be more vio-

### Movie **interview**

lent than you." So there was kind of a threat there. If that's violence, I don't know. In this film, I guess it's ecology. I guess the human character. The film says we are at a crossroads with our planet. We, as a human species, are having such an adverse impact on the planet that either we're going to die or the planet's going to die. And if the Earth dies, we die. But if you die, the Earth survives. My character is here to make a judgment on the human species and comes to learn and believe that at this crossroads, at this tipping point, human beings can change, that we will be able to survive ourselves and hopefully some other species on the planet.

Do you think there's a political message, especially when Kathy Bates' character says, "You don't talk to the U.N. You talk to us"?

layered film and I think part of it is the representation in the beginning that America is aggressive, and when it's confronted by something unknown reacts aggressively. The story we tell is that maybe that's not the best way to be.



Does it resonate with what's happening to-

Yeah. It's an issue that people are thinking about ... hopefully the film will be part of the solution.



Do you think that movies and art in general can help people change or raise awareness?

Yeah, I hope so. I think it's part of a dialogue. Ī think it's on a lot of people's minds ... the impact that humans are having on the planet.



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### movies&entertainment 29

### **Reel Time**

### Raising a glass to Milk

### Movie feature

PHIL BROWN for Metro Canada

Beyond being an impressive piece of storytelling, Gus Van Sant's Milk is an important film because it dramatizes the life of the one of the most underappreciated political figures of the 1970s.

Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man elected to political office in America, breaking what seemed like an insurmountable barrier.

"Harvey's contribution in the gay movement was enormous," said Vancouver's Tim Stevenson, who holds the dual honour of being Canada's first openly gay provincial cabinet minister and an ordained minister.

"He was way ahead of his time," said the former B.C. minister of employment and investment. "He led the way for many other politicians who I think at that time didn't consider it a possibility to be openly gay and elected."

Stevenson has been involved with the gay liberation movement for more than 30 years and is quick to acknowledge that, "Harvey was one of my main influ-

"When I started in the



Sean Penn stars as Harvey Milk in Gus Van Sant's film.

### On the web

• Visit metronews.ca for more information on Milk, including trailers and show-

'70s it didn't look even remotely possible that I could be ordained in a church, let alone become a politician, let alone become a cabinet minister.

"We didn't even think of that. We're at a place now where you can basically achieve what you want to achieve."

But like many political figures in the gay community, Stevenson is worried that younger generations don't appreciate the sacrifices and achievements of trailblazers like Harvey Milk, who helped create the current political climate of toler-

the liberation movement. That's why I'm particularly pleased to see a movie like this coming out because it will help people remember. I think it's essential that gay, lesbian, and transgender people know our history and understand how we got to where we are.

"It didn't happen without a lot of pain, a lot of suffering and death. We forget our own history to our peril."

Stevenson isn't the only person who feels this way. In fact, it was the primary motivation of many of the people involved in making Milk — like screenwriter Dustin Lance Black.

"The movie will be helpful for the gay community as an education piece,' Black said, "I think it will also be really helpful for the gay leadership to see how it's done."

Milk makes its way into "He really is a martyr for city theatres next Friday.

### LET THE HOLIDAY SEASON BEGIN!

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Reese Witherspoon



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### A fireball, but no aliens in the Prairies



ecently a giant meteor lit up the Canadian prairie sky. "It was really bright. We weren't really sure what happened ... got up to look out the window, and all of a sudden, we heard this rumbling," said one witness.

If this happened in a movie a nerdy lab-coated scientist would say something like, "No telling what kind of meteor it is or what goes on inside of it ... it's been gathering the secrets of time and space for billions of years," before giant bugs or aliens hatch from the mysterious rock, bringing intergalactic mayhem with them.

Next week, a massive fireball will bring Keanu Reeves crashing to earth in The Day the Earth Stood

Still, a remake of the 1951 sci-fi classic. In it he plays Klaatu, an ambassador from an extraterrestrial confederation who arrives with a simple message for the people of the third rock from the sun, "If the Earth dies, you die. If you die, the Earth survives."

All in all fireballs are usually bad news.

Remember Cloverfield? After a burst of light from the sky illuminated lower Manhattan a colossal creature resembling a giant sweaty salamander with the mumps laid waste to the city.

In The Day of the Triffids meteors do double dastardly duty. First a colorful meteor shower attracts worldwide attention, but the light from the shower renders most of Earth's population blind. Next spores from the meteors turn into plant-like space aliens. That development leads to my favorite ever line in a meteor movie.

"Keep behind me," says hero Tony Goodwin. "There's no sense in getting killed by a plant."

Movie meteors aren't always bad, however. Robert Townsend wrote, directed and starred in Meteor Man about a meek Washington, D.C., teacher who develops superpowers after being hit by a glowing green meteor. Using his newly found abilities he cleans up the streets after a drug lord moves into his neighbour-

So far there haven't been any reports from the prairies of alien spores, super human behaviour or giant beasts terrorizing Brandon, Man., but if movie science is to be believed anything is possible.

According to Paul Frees in The Monolith Monsters, you never know when the meteor will make itself known. "Meteors!" he says. "Another strange calling card from the limitless regions of space - its substance unknown, its secrets unexplored. The meteor lies dormant in the night — waiting!"

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

Hilary Swank has signed on to play The Resident in a new film from Finnish director Antti Jokinen and the newly revitalised Hammer Films. IMDB.COM

### JCVD has a slick approach

**Director:** Mabrouk El-Mechri Stars: Jean-Claude Van Damme Classification: 14A Rating: ####

**STEVE GOW** 

**REVIEW** Dolph Lundgren is probably banging his head against a wall somewhere. After all, the struggling has-been action star has had to sit and watch his former Universal Soldier co-star, Jean-Claude Van Damme, enjoy a huge renaissance of popularity with an acclaimed turn in JCVD. That can't be fun.

By playing a slightlyaskew version of himself, Van Damme not only selfdeprecatingly mocks his depleted action hero status but, by doing so, some critics are predicting he may actually salvage his slumming career.

Set in the aftermath of a child custody battle, **ICVD** returns the Muscles from Brussels to the sanctuary of Belgium where he soon finds himself in the middle of a robbery-



Jean-Claude Van Damme plays a slightly askew version of himself in JCVD.

gone-wrong. While cops mistakenly accuse the star of an escalating hostage situation, Van Damme struggles with the elements that have steered him to this bizarre crossroads.

With a slick, stylish and unabashed approach, it's director

Mabrouk El-Mechri both reveres and roasts his former movie idol. Better yet, El-Mechri gives him the soapbox on which to tell his story.

With disarming likeability, he casts a spell over his audience with a compelling mix of selfparody and sentimentality. It's difficult not to feel for the dude after sitting through a shocking, seven minute monologue lamenting lost fortune.

JCVD isn't just an amazing turnabout for Van Damme; it's a fascinating and hilarious study of celebrity and middle-aged angst at large.

### Movie **morsels**

### **Australia**

**REVIEW** Australia is a beautifully filmed study of a vast land that — as one character says — has "a strange power." What director Baz Luhrmann should fret over is the drawn-out narrative that plays to melodramatic excess. Set during the outbreak of World War II, Australia features Nicole Kidman as Lady Ashley, the widow of a mysteriously murdered cattle ranch

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

### Four Christmases

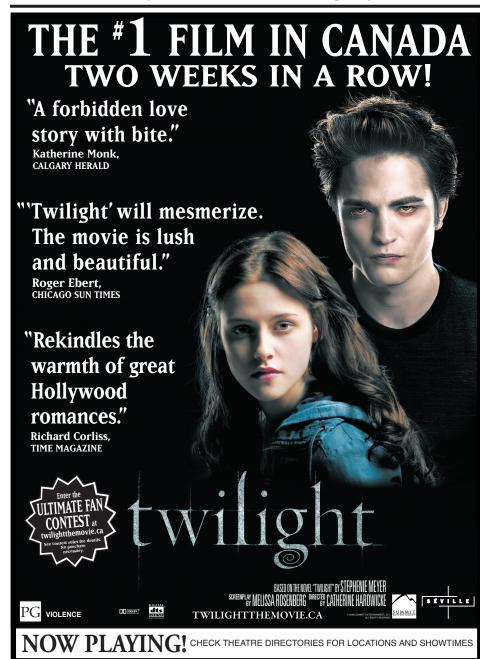
**REVIEW** Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon star as a professional couple who always avoid their families during the holidays. After the film's worst plot contrivance broadcasts their availability to their kin, the couple embark on their dreaded four Christmases. Sure, this is no future Christmas classic, but it will be a movie you won't angrily turn off when it starts airing on television.

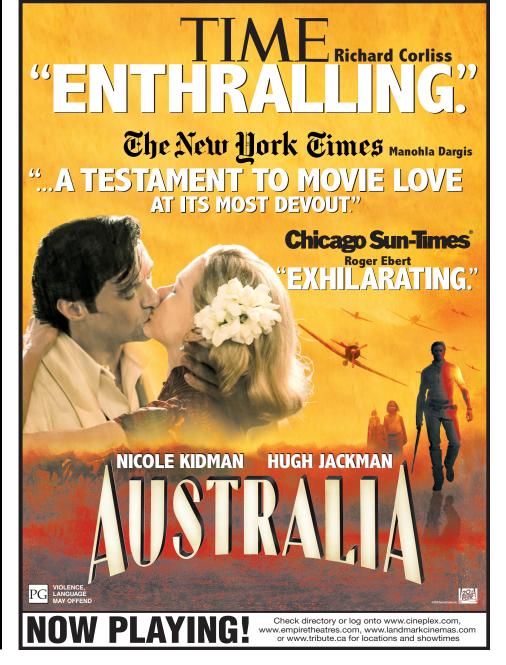
Phil Brown/Metro Canada



### **Twilight**

**REVIEW** Kristin Stewart stars as Bella, a young girl who moves to a small town and becomes instantly captivated by a classmate named Edward (Robert Pattinson) who is part of a very peculiar and insular family known as the Cullens. As Bella becomes more attracted to Edward, she discovers that the Cullens are a clan of vampires ... but very safe emo-vampires who only drink animal blood and spend of most of their time silently emoting and looking pretty rather than preying on helpless victims. Thus begins the epic tale of forbidden love that has made the millions of teenage girls SWOON. Phil Brown/Metro Canada





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**Twilight** (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:50-1:20-3:35-4:05-6:45-7:15-9:30-10

SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:45

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) SR

Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7:40-10:10 **EMPIRE STUDIO 10** 

MACLEOD TRAIL

100-16061 MacLeod Tr., 403-974-0470

The Adventures of Pinocchio (Opera)

(STC) Digital Presentation Sat 1 Digital Presenta

tion, Stadium Seating Sun 1 **Australia** (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digi-

tal Fri-Sun 12:15-3:50-7:40-9:20 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Tue 12:15-3:50-7:40 Stadi-um Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 12:15-

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Stadium Seat-

ing, SR Dolby Digital, Digital Presentation Fri-Thu

Four Christmases (PG) Stadium Seating, SR

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-

6:50-9

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Stadium Seating, SR
Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:20-10:15

Quantum of Solace (14A) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Sun 1-1:30-3:40-4:10-6:45-7:15-

9:40-10:10 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Mon 1-

1:30-3:40-4:10-7:15-9:40-10:10 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Tue-Thu 1-1:30-3:40-4:10-6:45-7:15-

Role Models (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seat

ing Fri 7:05 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2-

4:25-7:05 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4:25

7:05 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2-

Transporter 3 (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:45-3:20-6:40-9:30 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 6:40-9:30 DTS Digital, Stadium

Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:10-10

Seating Sun-Thu 12:45-3:20-6:40-9:30 **Twilight** (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital

**GLOBE CINEMA** 

617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Brick Lane (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 1-3:25-7-9:25

What Just Happened? (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30

Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

**MOVIEDOME** 

1039 999 36 St., 403-248-2000

Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-3:30-7:30-9:50

11:45-2:10-4:30-7-9:15

9:40-10:10

Independent

### **Screen Times**

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 5 TO THURS., DEC. 11. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

#### **CANYON MEADOWS** Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

**Appaloosa** (14A) Fri-Thu 3:45-7:05 **Beverly Hills Chihuahua** (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-

**Body of Lies** (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:05-6:50-

**City of Ember** (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4-7:10

The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-8:15 The Duchess (14A) Fri-Thu 9:20 Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-6:50-9:35 **Ghost Town** (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:40-7:25-9:50 **Mamma Mia!** (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:20-

9:50 **Max Payne** (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:05-9:30 Mv Best Friend's Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20

Quarantine (18A) Fri-Thu 9:35 RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40 WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50

#### **CROWFOOT CROSSING**

91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316 Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:45-7:30 Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:45-5-7:25-9:55

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:30-12:50-3-3:50-6:50-7:10-9:30-10:05 No Passes Tue 12:30-3-3:50-6:50-7:10-9:30-10:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-12:50-3-3:50-6:50-7:10-9:30-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1 **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:10-7:35-9:50

The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor

Atomic Encore (STC) Sat 11
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:45-9:45-10:30

**Role Models** (14A) Fri 1:40-4:20-7:20-10 Sat 4:20-7:20-10 Sun-Mon 1:40-4:20-7:20-10 Tue 4:20-7:20-10 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:20-10 Star &

Strollers Screening Tue 1

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:40-7:40-

**Twilight** (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:10

#### **EAU CLAIRE MARKET** 200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri 7:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-4-8 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:30 Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10

Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn in Four Christmases, which is currently in theatres.

9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-7:10-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45 Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-6:50-9:50 Mon-Wed 6:50-9:50

Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri 6:30-9:30 -Sun 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:30-9:30 Wed 9:30 Thu 6:30-9:30

Twilight (PG) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40

#### **EMPIRE STUDIO 16** COUNTRY HILLS

Australia (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:05-12:35-3:40-4:10-8-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:05-12:35-3:40-4:10-8-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 8-9

Bolt (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:45-3-7:25-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:25-9:35

**Bolt in Disney Digital 3D** (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:15-2:30-7-9:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7-9:15 Four Christmases (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:30-1-2:50-3:20-6:50-7:20-9:10-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:20-

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12-2:15-6:30-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:30-9 Passchendaele (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadi um Seating Fri-Mon 1:15-4-6:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:55

Punisher: War Zone (18A) SR Dolby Digital. Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:05-3:45-7:05-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:05-9:50 Quantum of Solace (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:10-12:40-2:45-3:15-6:40-7:10-9:20-9:40-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:40-7:10-9:20-9:40-10:05 Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:25-3:55-7:45-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:45-10:15 **Transporter 3** (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:40-4:15-7:30-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:30-10:05

### 388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

**Appaloosa** (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:45-9:40 Mon 12:50-3:40 Tue-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:45-9:40 Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:55-6:40 Mon 12:55-3:55 Tue-Thu 12:55-3:55-

**Burn After Reading** (14A) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:50-7:05-9:50 Mon 1:05-3:50 Tue-Thu 1:05-3:50-7:05-

City of Ember (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon 1-4 Tue-Thu 1-4-7-10

Dostana (PG) Fri-Sun 8:45 Tue-Thu 8:45 Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35 Mon 12:45-3:35 Tue-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35 **Heaven on Earth** (STC) Fri-Sun 3:40-6:55 Mon 3:40 Tue-Thu 3:40-6:55

How to Lose Friends & Alienate Peo-ple (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:45-6:55-9:50 Mon 1-3:45 Tue-Thu 1-3:45-6:55-9:50

**Igor** (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05 Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-9:55 Mon 1:10 Tue-Thu 1:10-9:55 Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye! (PG) Fri-Sun 6:30

Quarantine (18A) Fri-Sun 10:05 Tue-Thu 10:05 Sex Drive (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:35-6:50-9:45 Mon 12:45-3:55 Tue-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:50-9:45

#### **SCOTIABANK CHINOOK** 6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2-4-7-8 **Bolt** (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:50-9:30 Fri-Thu 1:145-2:15-4:50-7:20-9:50

Changeling (14A) Fri 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:20 Sat 3:40-7:05-10:20 Sun-Thu 12:15-3:40-7:05-

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue

12:40-3:40-7:05-9:40 No Passes Wed 12:40-7:05-9:40 No Passes Thu 12:40-3:40-7:05-9:40 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:35-10:20

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:15-10:05

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: The IMAX Experience (G) Fri-Wed 12-2:20-4:40-

7-9:20 Thu 12-2:20-4:40 The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor

Atomic Encore (STC) Sat 11 Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4

4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30 **Role Models** (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25

**Twilight** (PG) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7:10-7:30-

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:15-4:10-10:10

#### **PLAZA THEATRE**

1133 Kensington Rd., 403-283-3636

JCVD (14A) Fri 3-5-7-9-11 Sat 3-7-9-11 Sun 3-5-7-9 Mon 5-7-9 Tue 5-9 Wed-Thu 5-7-9

Skateboard Film Festival (STC) Sat 5 Tell No One (14A) Sat-Sun 12:35 The War on Democracy (STC) Tue 7

#### **SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM** 2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:55-

6:30-7:30-10:05 Bolt (G) Fri-Mon 1-3:35 Tue 3:35 Wed-Thu 1-3:35 Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:05-7:35-10:10 Star & Strollers

Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (STC) Fri 3:25-7-10:20 Sat-Thu 12-3:25-7-10:20

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:10-12:45-2:35-3:15-5-6:55-7:25-9:30-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:10-2:35-3:50-5-6:55-7:25-9:30-9:50 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-7:20-10

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-12:50-3:10-3:40-6:35-7:05-9:25-9:55 **Role Models** (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-7:10-

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:50-

Twilight (PG) Fri-Mon 12:25-1:05-3:20-4-6:45-

7:15-9:40-10:15 Tue 12:25-3:20-4-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 12:25-1:05-3:20-4-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Tue 1

#### **UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN** 612 8th Ave., 403-265-0120

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu

Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 2:20-9

Outsourced (PG) Fri 5-7 Sat-Sun 12:15-5-7

Religulous (14A) Fri-Thu 4:50

**WESTHILLS 10** 

### 165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-4:20-8 No Passes Mon-Thu 5-8:30 Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:20-9:50 Mon-

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:55-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:35

Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:15 Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-7-9:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:35-7:50 **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:35-7:05-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:25-7:45

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4:05-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:45 Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:10-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:50

**Transporter 3** (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 6-8:55

Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:10-7:10-10 Mon-



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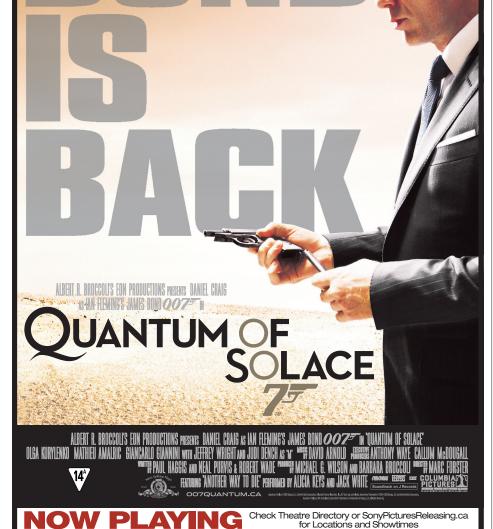


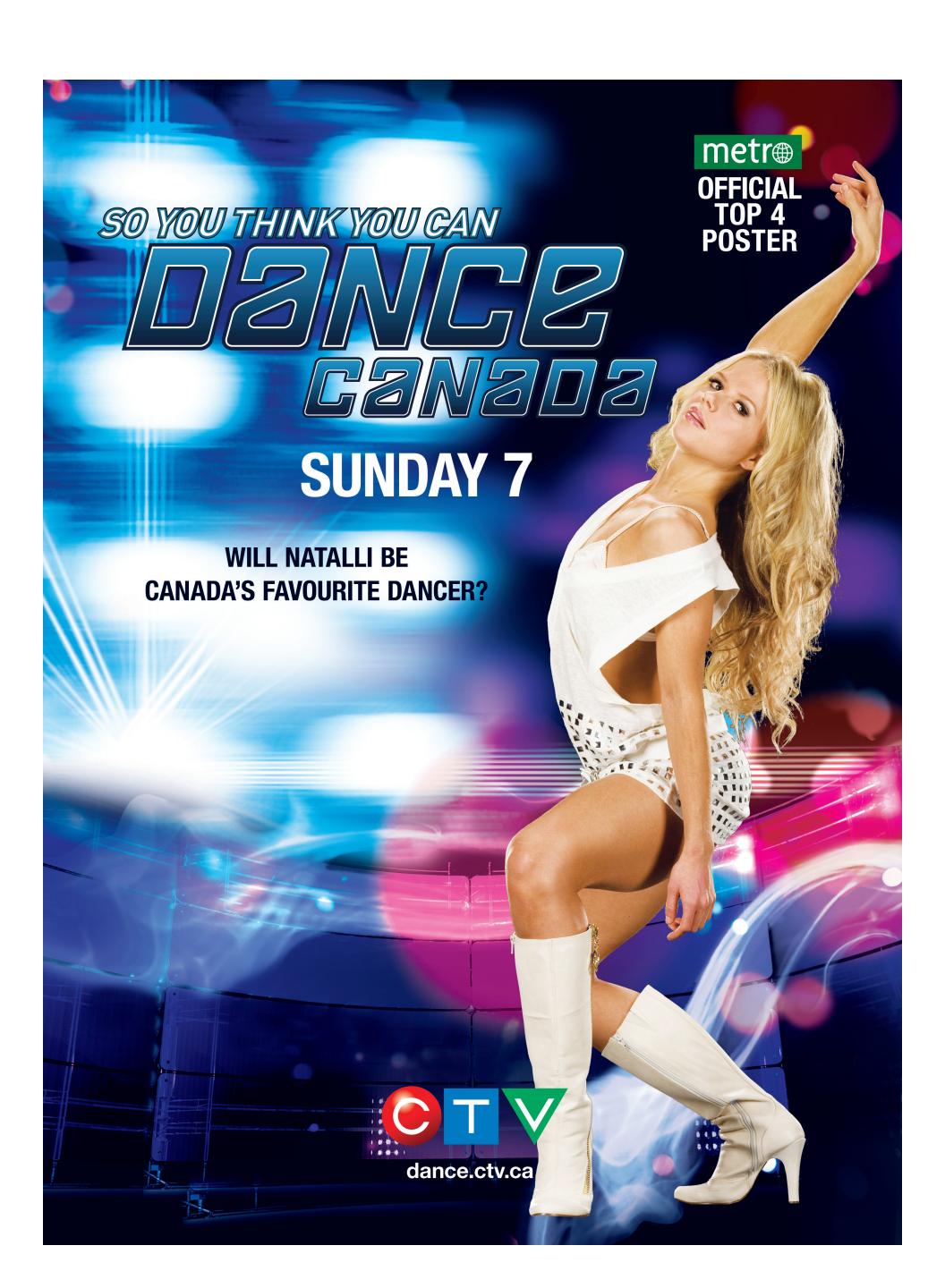






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1. And Winter Came, Enya; 2. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 3. Twilight, Soundtracks & Original Casts; 4. Day And Age, The Killers; 5. Soul, Seal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Music

### Band of the decade debate



y my reckoning, there are 391 days until the end of the first decade of the 21st century and we still haven't managed to come up with a proper name for it. The Zeroes? The Aughts? The O's? The Zips? You'd think we'd have figured it out by now. If it's any consolation, though, Gregorian calendar types faced the same issue between 1900 and 1909. (Personally, I blame Stanley Kubrick for some of the confusion. Life might be much different if he had called his 1968 movie "Twenty-oh-one: A Space Odyssey")

And with 391 days left, you'd figure that we might have come up with a Band

of the Decade. After all, the 60s were all about the Beatles and the Stones. In the 70s, it was Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and the Eagles. The 80s gave us U2 and Springsteen while the 90s remains all about grunge: Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden.

But those were the days when we didn't have the kind of access to music that we have today. With all of us being able to get whatever song we want, wherever we are and whenever we want it, mass consensus has broken down to the point where we're all individual islands of musical taste. When was the last time we had a new release that sold by the tens of millions?

In the Olden Days, that happened all the time. Today, not so much.

So back to my original which artist/ question: band will history make synonymous with this decade? I put this question to the masses through Yahoo! Canada Answers

over the last week and I received hundreds of responses. And there was a fair amount of agreement.

A lot of people made a good argument for Coldplay. After all, they emerged at the turn of the century and have sold somewhere around 30 million records.

Chris Martin is a photogenic frontman with a Hollywood wife and two bizarrely-named kids. And he and the rest of the band are committed to a variety of social and humanitarian causes.

Others suggestions included the White Stripes ("They made being indie cool for the mainstream!"), Nickelback ("Dude, say what you want, but they sold a lot of albums.") and the Killers ("Even my mom likes them!").

What do you think? Drop me a line and we'll revisit this sometime in the next 391 days.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada, Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com



Los Angeles-based folkies Everest look to singer-songwriter Neil Young for guidance.

### In Young's shadow

### Everest tours with Young, Wilco

BRIAN TOWIE Metro Canada

#### Russell Pollard may have reached the summit of his musical endeavours.

It's one reason why the former member of Sebadoh and Folk Implosion named his latest project Everest, a L.A.-based folk-rock hybrid he put together with bassist Rob Douglas, guitarist Joel Graves and drummer Davey Latter — all close friends with musical resumés as long as your arm (Earlimart, Alaska! and The Watson Twins among them).

It's a friendship that produced Ghost Notes, Everest's debut that delves into bright pop in its first half and melancholy prog-rock in the second. Produced by Mike Terry (Foo Fighters), Ghost Notes has an early 1970s feel, recorded on analog tape in the late Elliot Smith's New Monkey studio — a work that Pollard says was a refreshing reboot for all concerned.

"We're all close friends and we got really frustrated with what we were doing," said the drummer turned singer-songwriter.

'We didn't want something similar to what we what he does get messed

### "He's our shaman. He does what he wants to do."

Russell Pollard on Neil Young

had done in the past. We wanted something with no rules and no pretension, and it just evolved from there." The band made a long

climb in a short time: In November of 2007 Elliot Roberts, Neil Young's manager, warmed to Everest demos and invited the band to record under Young's Vapor Records label. Early this year, Everest played at the Sundance Film Festival, where Young was promoting Déjà Vu, a documentary about Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Impressed with what he heard at the fest, Young invited Everest on several European dates and the North American leg of his current tour with Wilco and Death Cab For Cutie.

"He's our shaman," Pollard says of Young.

"He does what he wants to do; he doesn't compromise and he doesn't let

with for the sake of money. We view that as the dream. It's a very organic thing.'

Pollard plans on climbing more musical mountains in the future — already testing the crowds with new songs to appear on a potential second album that the band will record at the end of its tour.

He says continuing while the group has this kind of creative independence isn't so much of a want as it is a

"I didn't think it would be possible to have as much fun as we are now," he said. "We can't stop. We'll just get depressed, and I plan on taking this thing as far as I want to go."





**METRONEWS.CA** 

### Metro recommends

MAN, ELEC-TRIC ARGU-**MENTS:** Paul McCartney

meshes his

psychedelic heritage and whimsical pop magic for an expansive new sound.

**KANYE** WEST, 808S & **HEARTBREAK:** Busted-computer beats

and an auto-

tuned mic help Kanye sort through heartache and find new hip-hop ground.

ROSES. CHI-**NESE DEMOC-**RACY: trademark

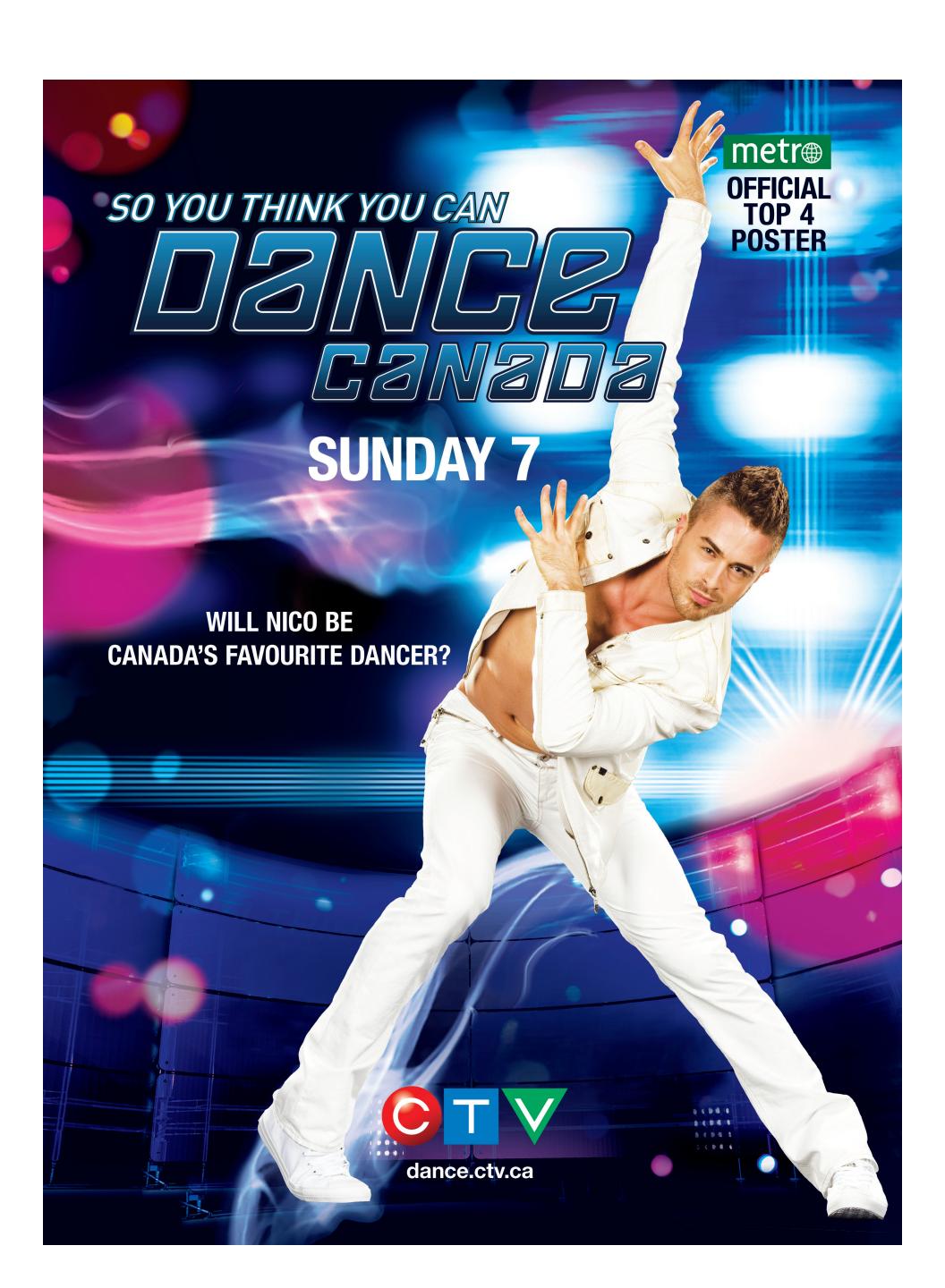


**NEWS SERVICES** 

**GnR** boldness and new styles, Axl creates an intricate landscape. **METRO** 

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 14, 2008. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Approximate retail value of grand prize \$440. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.





Grey's Anatomy will have a new patient this winter — and he won't be an easy one to treat. Eric Stoltz will be rolled in to Seattle Grace's halls as a serial killer in need of serious medical attention. TVGUIDE.COM

### **Television**

### Palin ticks off mighty O

Former VP candidate talking to everyone except Oprah

### **IntelleVision**



NO ONE SAYS NO TO OPRAH: She's taking her show to Washington D.C. Barack Obama's inauguration, but Oprah Winfrey is apparently perplexed, even annoyed, that former Republican vice-presidential hopeful Sarah Palin hasn't appeared on the couch that Tom Cruise once pummelled.

"I said I would be happy to talk to Sarah Palin when the election was over," Oprah complained to Extra. "I went and tried to talk to Sarah Palin and instead she talked to Greta Van Susteren. She talked to Matt Lauer. She talked to Larry King, but she didn't talk to me. But maybe she'll talk to me now that she has a book deal."

"I said I would be happy to talk to Sarah Palin when the election was over. I went and tried to talk to Sarah Palin and instead she talked to Greta Van Susteren. She talked to Matt Lauer. She talked to Larry King, but she didn't talk to me. But maybe she'll talk to me now that she has a book deal."

Oprah Winfrey

To which you can add hell, Palin even did a spot on Saturday Night Live at the height of Tina Fey's ongoing Palin party trick, and was probably willing to do Spring Break in Orlando. Hell, I hear she's even penciling in a visit to my place to teach me how to do polar bear in the slow cooker, which will probably happen before she does Oprah's show.

IT'S SORT OF LIKE PIZZA THAT **ORDERS ITSELF:** Mad Men star Jon Hamm will apparently be doing a trio of appearances on 30 Rock, playing a doctor neighbour of Tina Fey's Liz Lemon who becomes Lemon's new love interest.

"I just finished a couple of episodes, and I'll go back in the new year and do another one of those," Hamm told the Associated Press. "And then we'll see what happens."

When those shows air, you'll be able to drive cattle through the streets of New York's Upper West Side and stage Burning Man on the streets of Toronto's Annex without anyone noticing. The rest of both countries will be shrugging and going, "30 what? Jon who?" but resi-

dents of all the regions thick with New Yorker subscriptions will be turning off the phone and letting their Thai takeout go cold.

IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY: In the New York Daily News, columnist David Hinckley surveys the season's offerings of dusty chestnuts and lacklustre new efforts, and wonders why Love, Actually, 2003's Brit Christmas remake of Schnitzler's La Ronde, isn't a holiday sta-

"For all the mediocre programs that TV dusts off each year in hopes that we'll associate them with the holidays," Hinckley writes, "you'd think there would be more room for one that's funny, clever, droll, full of upbeat music and sends you away smil-

I'll tell you why, David: It's because it blows. Big time. That is all.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, novies, books and televisior but not opera.

### NBC's The Office scores Super Bowl touchdown

MIDSEASON NBC's hit comedy The Office will get the coveted post-Super Bowl spot next year.

The post-Bowl position is considered the most valuable piece of programming real estate on television, exposing a series to tens of millions of viewers. NBC will air a special one-hour episode of its Emmy-winning comedy after the game concludes Feb. 1.

"The Office is a perfect fit for after the Super Bowl," NBC scheduling chief Mitch Metcalf said. "It's going to be a hilariously funny hour, and I think people will be in the mood to laugh."

With NBC's ratings severely depressed this fall, the Super Bowl telecast presents a valuable opportunity to bring viewers back to the network.

"Some of the best performances after the Super Bowl have been comedies," Metcalf said. "This could bring a whole new audience to the show." REUTERS

### Trailer Park Boys say bye with final special

#### Ricky Gervais: **Out of England**

Air date: Saturday Network: HBO Canada

Office creator Ricky Gervais does his standup act in this special taped at Madison

Square Garden, with a heavy dose of his solipsistic humour.

#### So You Think You Can Dance Canada

Air date: Sunday **Network: CTV** 

I've been a bit chilly on the show since Arrasay was voted out, but the finale of the hit dance competition will have us all wondering: Why does this feel so much more democratic than actually voting

### Rick's TV**Picks**

in elections in this country?

### Trailer Park

Air date: Sunday **Network:** Showcase

### **Dartmouth's favourite**

sons say goodbye to the small screen with Say

Goodnight To the Bad Guys, the show's final special before the movie that will presumably wrap up

**Bubbles** this celebra-

tion of all things underclass in Maritime Canada.

**RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA** PLEASE CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR SHOWS' AIR TIMES.

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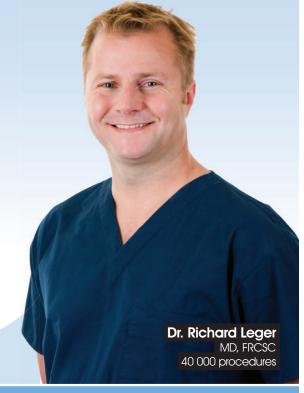
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No purchase necessary. Movie is rated G. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 12, 2008. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. If you miss a piece and for full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

Knight Rider actors dropped
Sydney Tamila Poitier and X-men star Bruce Davison have been axed from the Knight Rider remake in an effort to keep costs down

MOVIES & entertainment 37 on the show. The pair completed the first 13 episodes but won't be back, according to U.S. tabloid the Globe. IMDB.COM

### Mix of Six

**HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY** 



**Creative Lunchtime** 

Fri., noon Craigie Hall, U of C

Students bring their best theatre, art and drama works for the Gerry Thurston Performance Creation Festival. Final show today. Only \$2 and all funds support a scholarship.



Van Damme as Himself

Starts Friday Plaza Theatre, Kensington

Bloodsport action star (aka the Mussels from Brussels) Jean-Claude Van Damme plays himself in a comedic satire called JCVD. Sounds like Being John Malkovich, except more marshal arts and laughs.



### A Writer's Awakening

Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Chapters, Dalhousie Station

Calgary police officer John Petropoulos died in 2000. widow, Maryanne Pope, wrote A Widow's Awakening based on her experiences. She signs copies and talks about her life after his death.



(Not) Just Dance

Banff Centre, Margaret **Greenham Theatre** 

The drive is justifiable to experience Banff Centre's cultural plenitude and mystical mountain setting. Quebec-based company Bouge de la mixes video, dance and high energy. A family of four costs \$35.



**Listen Local** Saturday

Marquee Room, Palomino

Reader's choice: Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir brings their down-home sound to the Marquee or woodpigeon haunts the Palomino with soothing indie pop. Tough call.



**Arts & Crafts** Sun., noon-4 p.m. UPPERCASE, Art Central

Occupy the kids and stuff those stockings. UPPER-CASE hosts button and mirror making workshops every Sunday until Christmas. Bring drawings. Buttons start at \$1 and mirrors are \$7.

### Full House may return — sort of

• The cast of '90s sitcom Full House may be planning to return to the small screen in an up-to-date version of the show. John Stamos, one of the

show's stars, is reportedly plotting to reunite at least some of the cast for a "semiremake."

IMDB.COM

### Metro's 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

#### Alba in Campari calendar

Actress Jessica Alba flaunts her post-baby body in Campari's glamourous 2009 calendar. Only 9,999 copies have been printed.

Homemade holiday goodies Cookies, preserves, and

truffles are all great holiday gifts that can be made on a tight budget. Try getting together with friends in December and whipping up some yummy home-

made presents.

So You Think You **Can Dance Canada** ■ With just four dancers remaining on So You Think You Can Dance Canada, the nation will be watching this weekend

to see who comes out on top.

### **Christmas** specials

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, especially on your television set.

Classic holiday movies, and Christmas cartoon specials start airing on North American networks this week.

**Britney back in** businéss Britney Spears has released her much-anticipated album, Circus, after live performances in Europe and the United States. The album debuted at No. 1 on the

Billboard charts, and the pop star, who turned 27 on Tuesday, also announced plans for a 2009 tour with the Pussycat Dolls.

Top hats Madonna, Heidi Klum



Spears have all sported a dapper top hat as part their recent ensembles. This dramatic look is best suited to an over-the-top holiday affair.

**Christian Siriano for Payless** 

Payless is going to get a little fiercer with Project Runway winner Christian Siriano designing an exclusive footwear and handbag collection for the discount shoe store, available in fall 2009.

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Baywatch baby



Former Baywatch star Gena Lee Nolin and her husband, NHL hockey player Cale Hulse, have welcomed a girl, Stella Monroe Hulse. She was born Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz. PEOPLE.COM

### **Celebrity Buzz**

### **Getty regrets actions over Miller**

**RELATIONSHIPS** Actor Balthazar Getty regrets not standing up for girlfriend Sienna Miller and his wife Rosetta when the media took aim at them over his alleged infidelities. imdb.com reports.

Getty feels both women were treated unfairly by the tabloids when news of his romance with Miller first surfaced earlier this year, and now he wishes he had done something to protect the ladies in his

"There comes a time when it just gets a little bit too hurtful. It takes two to tango, man. You can't just point your finger at one person. Historically, women always get the short end of the stick," he tells America's TV Guide magazine.

"People went too far, whether it was invading Rosetta and the kids' privacy or saying really awful things about Sienna. They (photographers and reporters) yelled the most awful, disturbing things at her. Sometimes I wish I'd just stepped forward and said, 'Enough!"

Getty refused to confirm reports he and Miller have reconciled after a brief split, adding, "I can't comment on what's going

on there. I just can't." He adds that both Miller

and his wife are "both special people in my life."



### **Dunst back on** dating scene?

**RELATIONSHIPS** Kirsten Dunst is back on the dating scene after breaking up with Justin Long — the actress is reportedly romancing filmmaker Jacob Soboroff, imdb.com reports.

Yes, they're dating," a

The new couple was spotted shopping together

Jake Gyllen-



### Jamie Lynn underwent secret procedure?

**BEAUTY** Jamie Lynn Spears has undergone a secret fat-reducing cosmetic procedure, according to tabloid reports.

Both Star magazine and the National Enquirer allege 17-yearold Spears has had her tummy trimmed by soy-based injections that dissolve imdb.com reports.

**RELATIONSHIPS** TV personal-

ity Kelly Ripa has brushed

off reports she's splitting

from her husband of 12

years, actor Mark Consue-

Tabloids suggested Ripa

los, imdb.com reports.

walked out on Consue-

Ripa pans divorce rumours

The Enquirer claims the former star of Zooey 101 underwent the procedure recently, at a clinic in Nevada; but claims Star Spears was actually treated in October 2007. shortly

los over his alleged in-

But Ripa has hit back at

'The Enquirer runs the

story on a regular basis.

There is no truth. They

make this stuff up," a

spokesperson for Ripa

tells usmagazine.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

allegations made by The

National Enquirer this

volvement with

women.'

before

"other

she discovered she was pregnant with her daughter Maddie.

"Her mom, Lynne, approved the injections and went through tons of red tape to get the clinic to administer them to an underage patient. She had no idea she was pregnant," a source tells Star.

A representative for Spears has refused to comment on the reports.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES** 

### **Heche ecstatic** about expecting

BABY Anne Heche and her partner James Tupper are expecting their first child together, femalefirst.co.uk

> The actress is said to be extremely excited about the pregnancy. "They are both thrilled!" Heche's representative reportedly said. **METRO NEWS** SERVICES

Dunst is working with Soboroff on a documentary about voting, and the two have become more than close friends, according to reports.

source tells Life + Style magazine.

at an art store last week.

Dunst previously dated

### Simpson loves self-help books

**PEOPLE** Jessica Simpson confesses to Marie Claire in its January issue that despite a steady relationship and a new album, she still thinks she could use some self-improvement, People.com reports.

"I am the first person to go to Barnes & Noble and buy the new self-help book," Simpson, 28, says. "I like to fill out the surveys, then I get my friends' opinions on how I answered to see



### Union doomed: Heidi's mom

RELATIONSHIPS Heidi Montag's mother has wrecked her daughter's new wedded bliss by predicting her marriage to Spencer Pratt will last just six months, imdb.com reports.

Darlene Egelhoff is fuming after The Hills stars eloped to Mexico to marry in secret on Nov. 24, and she is accusing 25year-old Pratt of controlling her daughter and forcing her to sideline her own family.

"(When heard they had married) I was

devastated. I've many hours crying and depressed," Egelhoff tells Us magazine. "I've been completely cut out because of Spencer. I didn't get to shop for a dress and be involved. She's too young

> to get married, and Spencer has cut everyone out of her life ... I want the best for my daughter — and he's definitely not it."

And she delivers a damning verdict on the future of union: "I'm confident the marriage won't work out. I give it six months." METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Tyra prefers blind dates to stars

**RELATIONSHIPS** Supermodelturned-talk-show host Tyra Banks avoids romance with fellow celebrities, instead choosing to meet potential boyfriends through blind dates, imdb.com reports.

She insists she isn't looking to find love with another famous person because the media attention would be too much to

handle.

"I try not to date people who are famous because one celebrity plus another celebrity equals five," she tells Ebony magazine.

The paparazzi will just start mixing my name with theirs ... But it's not a personal interest of mine, I get set up

by my friends. It's the hook up!" **METRO NEWS** 

**SERVICES** 

### No excuse for DUI, Osment says

**REGRET** Former child star Haley Joel Osment quit alcohol at the age of 18, after he was punished for driving drunk in Hollywood in 2006, imdb.com reports.

The incident shamed the actor, who had to pay a fine and adhere to probation, as well as a mandatory rehab stint and Alcoholics Anonymous course.

Osment vowed to stop drinking completely until he turns 21.

As his 21st birthday approaches, he says his actions were

tremely irresponsible. There's no excuse for that," he says. "I learned my lesson. I made a bad decision, and it's something





**Take Five** 









Andrew Schultz. Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television

ening or weekend will shape up with ou

### 12 16 15 18 19 22 25 29 33 36 39 43 44 47 48 50 52 54

#### Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3		1			2	5	
9				4		6		1
7				6				
	9	2			5		4	
				1				
	5		9			7	8	
				3				4
5		8		9				2
	4	6			1		9	

### **Crossword across**

- 1 Cried like a crow 6 Sweet potato
- 9 Plead
- 12 Open-mouthed
- 13 Microbrewery product
- 14 Ostrich's kin
- 15 Gondolier, typically
- 16 "Ben-Hur" author
- 18 Race place
- 20 Augments, with "out" 21 Long March leader
- 23 Copper head?
- 24 Thing of value
- 25 Heidi's home 27 Some exams
- 29 Grated

- 35 That is (Lat.)
- 37 Church section
- 38 New again
- 41 Congregant's seat
- 43 Started

- 45 Breakfast option
- 49 Lessen
- 52 Superlative ending
- 54 Emphasize slyly
- 55 In medias -
- 56 Golfer Ernie
- 57 Fashion

### **Crossword down**

- 1 Upper limit
- 2 Past
- 5 Skin (Suff.)
- 6 Bored one
- 7 Remark re Yorick
- 17 Textbook chapter 19 Home
- 21 Scratch
- 22 Miss. neighbor 24 The whole shooting
- match

- 31 Petunia, for one

- 44 Bocelli solo
- 47 Southern Belgian

- 53 Disencumber

- 3 Belts
- 4 Duel tool

- 8 He spoke for Bugs
- 9 Birds' bills
- 10 Host
- 11 Visitor

- 26 Helix
- 28 Following
- 30 Tokyo, once
- 32 Midsize kangaroo
- 33 Prior night
- 34 Wine option
- 36 Pays out
- 38 Less refined
- 39 Obliterate
- 40 Isn't perpendicular
- 42 Sports
- 45 Spring wind? 46 Touch
- 48 Tramcar contents
- 50 Up to, in verse
- 51 Compass pt.

### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

Ε	G	G	S		F	Α	Т		Α	F	R	0
В	U	R	Т		L		Ε		F	L	0	G
В	R	Α	Υ		Α	D	S		L	Α	Τ	R
S	U	В	L	Ε	Т		Т	0	0	Т	L	Ε
			Ш	L	F			Р	Α	W		
Н	Α	F	Т		0	F	F	S	Т	Α	G	Ε
ı	L	L			0	Τ	L			R	Τ	G
С	1	Α	В	Α	Т	Т	Α		R	Ε	Ν	0
		Т	U	G			Т	Ξ	Ε			
S	Р	Τ	N	Е	Т		F	Т	С	K	L	E
L	0	R	D		0	В	Τ		Τ	Ν	0	Ν
Е	Ν	0	L		М	R	S		Т	Е	Ν	D
D	Υ	N	Ε		В	Α	Н		Ε	W	Ε	S

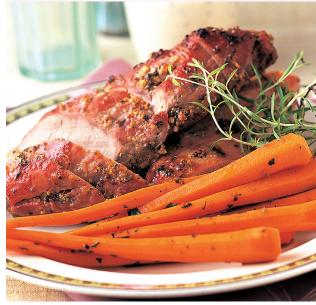
4	6	5	2	3	7	8	1	9
8	7	2	9	4	1	3	5	6
3	9	1	8	6	5	7	2	4
9	2	6	7	5	8	1	4	3
5	8	3	6	1	4	2	9	7
7	1	4	3	9	2	5	6	8
6	3	7	5	2	9	4	8	1
1	5	8	4	7	6	9	3	2
2	4	9	1	8	3	6	7	5

### Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOK	U SOL	/E TIME:

- Under 13 min ......Genius 13-17 min.....Scholar
- 17-21 min ......Smart 21-25 min ......Not bad 25+ min.....Keep practising

### Metro Recipe of the Day



### **Pork Tenderloin with Honey-Mustard Sauce**

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh rosemary or 1 tsp (5 mL) dried
- 2 garlic cloves, minced 1 tsp (5 mL) grated lemon zest
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt 1 pork tenderloin (about 1 lb/500 g), trimmed
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) fresh lemon juice 1/4 cup (50 mL) honey
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) coarse Dijon mustard 1/2 cup (125 mL) 10% cream

1 tbsp (15 mL) all-purpose flour

### **METHOD:**

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Line small roasting pan with foil. Combine rosemary, garlic, lemon zest and salt in small bowl and rub evenly over pork tenderloin; transfer pork to pan. Mix lemon juice, honey and mustard in small bowl. Transfer half to small saucepan and set

2. Brush pork with 2 tbsp (25 mL) honey-mustard sauce. Roast pork until glazed and golden brown or until instant-read thermometer reads 160°F (71°C), about 25 minutes, basting 2 or 3 times with remaining sauce. 3. Meanwhile, put cream in small bowl and whisk in flour until smooth. Warm reserved honey-mustard sauce in small saucepan over low heat. Gradually whisk in cream mixture and cook, whisking constantly, until sauce thickens, about 3 minutes. Serve with pork.

**SERVES 4** 

### rd.ca

For nutritional infor mation on this and go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's

Reader's Digest, on



**AVATAR VENUS** 

### **Horoscopes**

**ARIES** MARCH 21-APRIL 20 Don't run away from an intense situation if in doubt. An

adversary wants to learn your

tricks. Incompetence

### some second thoughts.

### **LIBRA**

**SEPT 23-OCT 23** Something marvelous will happen. A magical awakening takes place. Something you say convinces a friend to stay behind.

#### **TAURUS** APRIL 21-MAY 21

Desperate measures are taken by new people. Search for thrills with a reckless buddy. Friends will gather behind the scenes.

### **SCORPIO**

**OCT 24-NOV 22** 

It's too late to think the best of a buddy. A moving tribute is made to a generous act. Check out a proposed business venture.

#### **GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21**

There are too many options to choose from. Adventures are caused by trying to get somewhere. An obsession with something could get sticky.

### **SAGITTARIUS**

**NOV 23-DEC 21** Monitor all conversations with a bureaucrat. A mystifying friend gives a heart-felt speech. Something begins to make sense.

#### **CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22**

Pay attention to the direction of a vehicle. Someone isn't sure of the consequences. Be silent when an old argument resur-

#### **CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20**

There'll be a case of mistaken identity. You need to get something off your chest. You'll be told of unfamiliar circumstances.

#### **LEO JULY 23-AUG 23**

aside.

Someone will be a poor loser. You'll want to quit an unhappy situation. A little guy will back

### **AQUARIUS**

**JAN 21-FEB 18** You have to set a good example. Easy friendship comes from setting boundaries. Pay attention to loved ones.

### **VIRGO**

**AUG 24-SEPT 22** Regret over a mischievous encounter dissipates. Someone changes the rules. Pay attention to an over-reaction.

### **PISCES**

FEB 19-MARCH 20 Being anxious is a waste of your time. Letting go of inhibition warms somebody's heart. Make a helpful suggestion to a young guy.







